

Moroccan parties want ministers' poll annulled

RABAT (R) — The election of four cabinet ministers to Morocco's parliament should be cancelled because they abused their authority to get elected, opposition parties said Wednesday. In a memorandum to the National Electoral Commission, the four main opposition parties demanded that "the results of their election be cancelled." They said that in constituencies where the ministers ran for election there was "widespread abuse of authority by ministerial candidates ... with the use of public services for their benefit." The four ministers elected in last Friday's poll were Hassan Abouyoub, the minister for foreign trade, investments and tourism, Abdullah Belkiziz, youth and sports, Tayeb Chikili, education, and Mohammed Kabbaj, public works. The government they belong to, ostensibly non-party, was appointed by King Hassan last August to organise the elections which the king said would be "fair, honest and transparent." Three of them were elected as members of centrist parties which had an absolute majority in the outgoing parliament. Mr. Chikili was elected as a member of the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS).

Majali meets World Bank official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday received at the Prime Ministry the director of the Middle East and Europe Department of the World Bank, Ram Chopra, in the presence of Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and a delegation accompanying Mr. Chopra. Dr. Majali and Mr. Chopra reviewed the latest economic measures taken by the government. The Prime Minister voiced his determination to continue its efforts in various sectors to achieve more development and improve the level of economic performance in the Kingdom. Mr. Chopra expressed the World Bank's appreciation of Jordan's economic plans and said the Kingdom was heading towards overcoming its economic problems.

Qadhafi fails to meet Nathan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan failed to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on a three-day visit to Libya. Mr. Nathan told Israel Radio in an interview from Tunis Wednesday. Mr. Nathan had hoped to test the Arab leader's announcement he was opening doors to Jews and Israelis. "He didn't meet me," Mr. Nathan said. "For me this is completely normal. I'm used to it. The thing is to try."

Italian attacks Israeli-Arab MP

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Italian tourist lunged at an Arab (MP) in the Israeli parliament Wednesday in protest at the possible return of occupied territories to the Arabs. Hashem Mahmed was returning to his seat in the Knesset after speaking when Roman Alfonso Di Paolo tried to attack him. Police said the 30-year-old Catholic told them: "I did it because I heard that Israel was going to return the occupied territories. I did it to stop that happening and putting Israel in danger." Di Paolo, who had been shown round the building with a group of British visitors, sneaked into the press box and jumped over the railings to get at the MP for the ex-Communist Hadash Party man. But burly Chaim Dayan, a former policeman, and member of the extreme right-wing Tzomet party, grabbed the Italian and handed him over to security guards.

Haiti accord close

NEW YORK (AFP) — Negotiations in New York have agreed on some aspects of an accord aimed at resolving the crisis in Haiti, international mediator Dante Caputo said Wednesday. "Some of the elements which are essential I think we have," Mr. Caputo said at Governor's Island where he has been meeting since Sunday with army chief Raoul Cedras and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

France considering Iraqi interests wing

PARIS (R) — France said Wednesday it was considering allowing Baghdad to post diplomats at the Moroccan embassy in Paris to look after Iraqi interests. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duche said such a step would not mean any change in Paris' stand that Iraq abide by all United Nations resolutions. Mr. Duche said the United States and Britain had allowed such Iraqi interests sections to open at the Algerian embassy in Washington and the Jordanian embassy in London.

S. Africa scraps missile system plan

PRETORIA (AFP) — South Africa has scrapped plans to develop a missile launching system, Foreign Affairs Minister P. W. Botha announced here Wednesday. Mr. Botha told a press briefing that the decision to abandon the plan, which was in its test stages, was taken by the state-owned arms manufacturer Denelcor and was "purely commercial." The decision follows President Frederik de Klerk's March 24 announcement in Cape Town that South Africa was abandoning its nuclear arms programme.

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Iraq strikes conciliatory note, says few favour revenge for raid

Ukraine tells U.S. attack hampers arms treaty

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ WEDNESDAY struck a conciliatory tone despite two U.S. missile attacks in three days.

The Iraqi news agency (INA) reported that most Iraqis disagreed with those government officials who had urged retaliation against the United States. INA, in a telephone survey of 1,000 people carried out by the Information Ministry, said less than 30 per cent favoured retaliation against U.S. interests for Sunday's strike on the intelligence headquarters.

Fifty per cent wanted the country to "be patient and stand firm," said INA, citing the survey carried out before a U.S. warplane fired a missile at an anti-aircraft site in southern Iraq on Tuesday in a second attack.

INA said 19 per cent wanted peaceful protests. Eighty-nine per cent ruled out Washington's justification for the Baghdad strike — an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait in April.

But nine per cent declined to answer and 1.6 per cent said they believed that Iraq was behind such a plot, according to INA. The poll came out after U.S. newspapers published their own surveys indicating strong support for the U.S. President Bill Clinton's order to strike the intelligence compound.

By insisting its radars had not locked onto U.S. aircraft that fired at an anti-aircraft site on

Tuesday, Iraq also indicated it was still observing the ceasefire it declared when Mr. Clinton took office as president on Jan. 20.

Iraq sparked a series of U.S. air strikes before Mr. Bush left office when it deployed surface-to-air missiles in zones patrolled by U.S. and allied aircraft.

The Al Jumhuriyah newspaper, meanwhile said that the United States would not have "dared" to attack Iraq and Baghdad still possessed long-range missiles like the Scuds fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf war. Al Jumhuriyah said in a shock front-page article that Iraq's leaders made a "strategic mistake" in accepting 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms under which the arsenal had to be destroyed.

It was the first time such criticism has been levelled against Iraqi leaders in a government newspaper.

"We have the right to ask: Why did we put our missiles under Security Council resolutions if that would have led to stripping us of our strategic striking force that protects Iraq and its people," the article said.

"Had we possessed our missiles, the weak and indecisive Clinton would not have dared to hit our cities," Al Jumhuriyah said.

The decision to dismantle under U.N. supervision missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, along with the means to produce them, was "not in harmony with (the leadership's) eagerness to protect the Iraqi

people" it said. Al Jumhuriyah said that if it had not scrapped its missiles, Iraq would have retaliated for the latest U.S. attack with "sweeping force and effectiveness on the centres of aggression in Riyadh, Kuwait and Tel Aviv."

On Tuesday, Iraqi media warned of a long new confrontation with the United States. The warning came as a U.S. jet attacked an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery site Tuesday in southern Iraq after Iraqi radar targeted the American patrol plane. Iraqi anti-aircraft gunners also fired over Baghdad.

There was no sign of a new U.S. attack on the capital. Washington officials had no comment on the anti-aircraft fire.

Iraq has vowed to retaliate for the U.S. missile attack on a Baghdad intelligence complex that it said killed eight civilians. Iraqi officials protected U.N. nuclear arms inspectors during the U.S. missile strike, the American head of the team said Wednesday at the end of their mission.

Bob Kelley said the inspectors had not been informed in advance of the strike on the intelligence headquarters. "Absolutely not. I had no idea the strike was coming. I don't think I would have come here if I knew," he said.

But the Iraqis protected the 10-member multinational team, he told a press conference. "They watched out for our security," President Clinton is trying to

keep his showdown with Iraq from getting too personal, steering away from the strategy of Mr. Bush to try to weaken Iraqi President Saddam Hussein through humiliation.

In a 35-minute news conference Tuesday that dealt largely with Iraq, Mr. Clinton never once mentioned President Saddam by name.

Mr. Bush had frequently personalised his criticism of President Saddam, comparing him with Hitler and trying to demean him by mispronouncing his name. Mr. Bush's intention was to prevent President Saddam from saving face in the Arab World.

Mr. Clinton refused to hold President Saddam personally accountable for the alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate Mr. Bush. Spokesman Mike McCurry said it was inconceivable that a plot against Mr. Bush could be conceived "without it being known and approved by Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Clinton's actions were guided by a determination that it's more productive to keep the focus on Iraq's behaviour's rather than to pick a personal fight with President Saddam.

There is no doubt in the administration that President Saddam was responsible for the alleged plot. "What was missing — and this shaded the targeting — was

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Mubarak, Bashir bury their hatchets

CAIRO (Agencies) — The leaders of Sudan and Egypt buried their hatchets at an African summit in Cairo on Wednesday, saying a new page in their relations has begun.

Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir told a news conference after a 90-minute meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We are convinced that the meeting has put an end to the tension in relations and opened a new page to overcome the differences of the past," he said.

He said both countries had agreed to set up a mechanism to resolve their problems. Wednesday's meeting was the first between Lieutenant-General Bashir and Mr. Mubarak since relations between their countries soured 18 months ago.

Gen. Bashir tried to appease Egyptian fears by reiterating that his government was not training or backing militants responsible for a wave of gun and bomb attacks against police, Christians and foreign tourists in Egypt.

"The Islamic trend in Sudan is a reality but we are not helping or backing any movement or organisation outside Sudan regardless

of their allegiance," Gen. Bashir said.

He said Egyptian accusations that Sudan was running training camps for militants was "part of the campaign to tarnish the image of Sudan."

Gen. Bashir said all media and propaganda campaigns would stop between the two countries as of Wednesday.

Mr. Mubarak and Gen. Bashir said their foreign ministers will meet in July to discuss how to resolve their countries' disputes and pave the way for another meeting of the two leaders.

"We consider matters on their way to being resolved," Mr. Mubarak said. "An Egyptian will never draw his sword on a Sudanese."

Egypt had increased its troops in Halaib, a triangular border area which both countries claim, prompting Sudan to announce a general mobilisation of troops.

The Sudanese leader arrived in Cairo on Sunday for an Organisation of African Unity summit wearing the traditional white robes of tribes which live in Halaib.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat helped arrange the Mubarak-Bashir talks, held just before the closing session of OAU summit.

U.S. 'copters raid Somali arms dump

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. Cobra helicopters blew up a suspected arms factory with missiles Wednesday in a major show of United Nations military might a day before potentially violent Somali independence celebrations.

Witnesses said the helicopters attacked the compound on the flashpoint October 21st Road in south Mogadishu. Reporters saw one wounded man being led away but were prevented by angry residents from establishing if there were any further injuries.

Black smoke billowed from the compound, which Pakistani troops attempted to search Monday when Somali gunmen using rifles, machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades drove them back, killing two Pakistanis.

The structure — four stone walls reinforced with containers — was believed to be a "garage" where Osman Atto, the main financier of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aideded, turned cars into battle wagons and stored arms.

The attack followed a major show of force Wednesday morning by U.S. troops who sealed off Mogadishu port and searched Somalis for weapons for several hours. No incidents were reported in the operation.

The two incidents took place on the eve of the 33rd anniversary of Somalia's independence, which Gen. Aideded says is being threatened by U.N. attempts to recognise the country.

U.N. military spokesman David Stockwell said a total of 13 helicopters of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force (QRF) took part in the attack, with six Cobras firing anti-tank missiles and 20-millimetre cannon.

A column of black smoke and flames could be seen rising from the area, and residents told journalists that a number of people had been killed in the attack.

The reports could not be immediately confirmed as angry crowds kept journalists away. "Whenever we see white people we will kill them now," said one man. "We can't tell the difference between journalists and UNOSOM," he added, referring to the U.N. operation in Somalia.

Major Stockwell said there had been no UNSOM casualties and no reports initially of Somali casualties.

Legal eagles in a land of sharks; page 2



ASHURA: Shites of the Amal movement are covered with blood as they beat themselves with knives and swords in Nabatiyeh in South Lebanon Wednesday during the commemoration of Ashura, a celebration of the death of the Third Imam Hussein who died in the 7th century (AFP photo)

U.S. presents autonomy paper to Palestinians and Israelis

Israeli official says no paramount claim to Golan

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States delivered a document on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories Wednesday aimed at salvaging the 10th round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks here.

A senior Israeli official seeking to break a deadlock in peace talks with Syria, meanwhile disavowed permanent Israeli claim to the Golan Heights.

The assertion, at a breakfast meeting with reporters, could help persuade Secretary of State Warren Christopher to go to the Middle East.

He is already weighing a visit after attending the annual meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations in Singapore July 27-29. The purpose would be to try to pump new life into Arab-Israeli negotiations, due to recess on Thursday until October.

"I am very encouraged by the fact that we are looking at it as ongoing negotiations," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Christopher is sending his senior Mideast specialist, Dennis Ross, to the area next week. He will be accompanied by Daniel C. Kurtzen and Aaron D. Miller of the State Department and Martin Indyk, who heads the Mideast

desk at the National Security Council.

"The most important reason they are going is that the work needs to be continued," Mike McCurry, the State Department spokesman, said.

At the same time, Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerjian will go to Moscow for a conference on such related issues as the environment and refugees.

The Israeli official reviewing where negotiations stand, emphasised Israel's "security" concerns on the Syrian border.

"If you put our minds to rest on security maybe our attitude towards territory would change," the official said.

The Clinton administration already has offered to play a role in security arrangements on the Golan Heights, but has not provided any details.

The Israeli official said U.S. involvement in an Arab-Israeli settlement would be helpful. "We do not claim a right to the Golan," the official said, explaining that he meant Israel had no "religious" or "national" claim to the disputed territory.

But, he said, "we have a very important interest," there, "the Golan is very important for our security."

In another conciliatory note, the official said Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem may be

permitted to vote on the creation of a governing authority for the West Bank and Gaza.

But the official rejected any notion of Israel relinquishing its hold over East Jerusalem.

"Nothing is more potent than our claim to Jerusalem," he said. Israel has promised not to expel any more Palestinians "as long as the Middle East peace talks last," U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said in remarks published on Wednesday.

Dr. Ghali, visiting Cairo for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, told the Lebanese Al Safir newspaper that "discreet efforts" were being made to repatriate the remaining 396 Palestinian expellees.

"On the whole, they will return before the date Israel set for their return," the secretary general said.

Mr. McCurry, the State Department spokesman, said the U.S. document given to the Palestinians and Israel was "an effort to help identify the differences that exist" between the two sides.

The "ideas we have set forward in writing" have been delivered to the Israeli and Palestinian delegations and that "the hard work was to be continued."

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan demands evenhanded U.N. approach to Bosnian war

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan, speaking on behalf of the Arab group at the United Nations, has accused the Security Council of denying the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina their right to self-defence.

In a strong and forceful speech at the council, Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N., Adnan Abu Odeh, posed several questions related to the conflict in former Yugoslavia but having wider implications for the international community's approach to conflicts. (see page 8)

Following is the text of Mr. Abu Odeh's speech:

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Arab group I have the honour to speak on this meeting which you have devoted to a general debate on the armed conflict that continues to rage in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Before I take up the subject, permit me first to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and express the confidence of the Arab group in your wisdom, experience and good management. Please permit me also to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Arab group to your predecessor, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov of the Russian Federation for the skill and ability he had shown in conducting the deliberations of the council during his presidency last month.



Adnan Abu Odeh

Mr. President,

This is not the first time that your august council has devoted a meeting to conduct a debate on the tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. If anything, this fact simply demonstrates the failure of the resolutions adopted by your council to put an end to aggression against this helpless country and to check the instincts of the aggressor and nullify the consequences of its aggression.

I do not want to recount the facts that by their very nature, sequence and evolution, have come to be known in today's world — the post-cold war world, as the first human tragedy.

Suffice it to say that the systematic killing, displacement and

ethnic cleansing inflicted upon the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the violation of the human dignity of its people, men, women and children have reached a level that would stigmatise humanity for many centuries to come. This aspect of the Bosnian tragedy, however, is only the first chapter thereof.

The second chapter, Mr. President, is characterised by the United Nations beating about the bush, unable to take any steps forward, the steps provided for in the Charter, while the Serbian aggression was and still is exacerbating. The abject failure of the United Nations to carry out the duties entrusted to it by the Charter has brought about a strange paradox that can neither be overlooked nor denied. This paradox is best manifested by the fact that the more the Serbian aggression escalates the more the United Nations retreats. This fact has been reflected not only on the expansion and intensification of the Serbian aggression and on the increase in the number of aggressors, but also on the ongoing peace efforts themselves and on the features of the proposed peace plans which are changing in a way that serves the fait-accompli created by the success of aggression. If this rhythm continues, the end result may be not only the displacement of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and inflicting upon them all kinds of pain and suffering, but also the

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Israeli doctors told to stop giving 'licence for torture'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli Medical Association (IMA) has banned doctors from signing "licences to torture" Palestinian prisoners during interrogation.

Before a prisoner is subjected to "moderate physical pressure," which Israeli law allows to obtain confessions, a doctor has to declare him fit to survive the treatment.

The association's chairwoman, Miriam Zangen, told AFP on Wednesday she wrote to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on June 21 saying: "For ethical reasons, doctors cannot examine prisoners to enable them to be tortured."

Mrs. Zangen maintained the association was unaware of the forms which doctors routinely fill in at Shin Bet interrogation centres until they were handed out on June 15 at an international conference against torture in Tel Aviv.

On the forms the doctor declares the "patient" is fit to withstand for example being chained, hooded, kept standing for long periods or isolation in the centres run by the intelligence service.

"We have never been informed about this," she insisted, despite numerous press reports. "Once we became aware of this we reacted."

The IMA's 12,000 members, or nearly all the country's doctors, have been reminded in the latest medical bulletin of their ethical obligations. But the association is voluntary and can only warn or expel anyone breaking the ban, Mrs. Zangen said.

"We don't want to make a political issue out of it. This is a question of ethics," she said.

The association would not try to find out who had taken part in the "torture" system in the past, Mrs. Zangen admitted, but if names were forwarded they would be checked.

The announcement follows a major campaign to halt torture and a bid by nine parliamentarians to push through a private bill to outlaw torture, which human rights organisations say is routine and systematic against Palestinians.

Rights groups also have noted that Israeli authorities often use doctors who are recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union and badly need work to sign the "torture" forms.

The parliamentarians have put their bill on hold while the Labour-led coalition government examines new legislation to bring the law in line with the International Convention against Torture which Israel ratified in 1991.

At issue in the latest controversy is a questionnaire that surfaced in May at the army

detention centre in the occupied West Bank town of Tulkarem. The Shin Bet interrogator wing is part of the lockup.

In the questionnaire, the army doctor was asked to reexamine a detainee, 26-year-old Ribhi Shuker. The doctor was asked to answer yes or no to the following questions: "Are there any limitations to the prisoner's stay in an isolated cell... to the prisoner's chaining... to wearing a hood or blindfold... to prolonged standing."

It also asked, "Does the prisoner have any physical injuries (before entering interrogation)?"

The daily Ha'aretz reported on the form Tuesday, and a blank copy was obtained by the Associated Press.

In Mr. Shuker's case, the doctor answered "Yes" to all the questions and he was transferred to the Shin Bet wing. There he was hooded, beaten and put in the "banana hold" with hands and feet tied behind together his back, said Mr. Shuker's attorney, Tamar Peleg.

Mrs. Peleg, who works for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, said she obtained a copy of the filled out and signed questionnaire from military prosecutors.

The army's spokesman denied that doctors are asked to determine whether detainees are fit for interrogation.

Israeli officials also deny that Palestinian detainees are tortured. Guidelines set forth in 1987 by the Landau Commission, which investigated charges of torture, said Shin Bet interrogators are permitted to use "moderate physical pressure" against detainees. But the list of officially sanctioned methods was never made public.

The Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights charged earlier this month that frequent methods include beatings, hooding, tying up detainees in a painful position and making them stand for long periods.

Most male doctors serve in the army reserves, including some sent to detention centres in the occupied lands.

Dr. Ram Ishai, head of the medical association's ethics committee, said Wednesday he would open an investigation and question any doctor who signed the form.

"We tell every doctor that he can treat a detainee if he is hurt, also as a result of interrogation, and needs medical care," Dr. Ishai told Israel Radio.

He said that doctors were harmed from assessing whether a detainee can withstand interrogation on treating them so they can return to interrogation.



'ERRANT' MISSILE: An Iraqi teenager stares Sunday in an "errant" American missile (AFP photo) at the flattened house of a friend who was killed

Cruise — unreliable, vulnerable

By G.H. Jansen
Special to the Jordan Times

The cruise missile, first used in U.S. attacks on Baghdad in January and June 1993, would seem to be the weapon preferred by the U.S. to carry out the equivalent of long-range commando attacks. American strategists are boasting that the cruise gives the U.S. a new military flexibility since it can be launched from ships anywhere on the high seas, but it has two major defects. It is unreliable and it is vulnerable.

The two raids on Baghdad showed that the mechanical failure rate of the cruise is about one in six. This is not a crippling disadvantage when scores of the missiles are launched, at the cost of \$1 million per missile, but when large cities and sprawling built-up areas are the target, a missile breaking down and falling short causes civilian casualties. It happened both in January and on June 27 in Baghdad.

Chugging along at 900 kilometres per hour at heights between 5,000 and 10,000 feet, it is also very vulnerable: as vulnerable if not more so than a civilian airliner. Once vectored by ground defence it can easily be shot down by groundfire or by jet fighters. During World War II Royal Air Force Spitfires had a good killing rate against the very similar German "Doodlebug" V-1.

The cruise could also be vulnerable to political objections. If in the course of subsequent attacks these low-flying, slowly moving missiles have to cross the airspace of intervening countries they could, perhaps, be blocked off if these countries close their airspace.

Because of their vulnerability, total secrecy has to be maintained about cruise attacks because if the enemy state is forewarned it would be forearmed and its anti-aircraft defences and defensive fighters, if ready and waiting, could inflict heavy damage on the incoming missiles. This secrecy could lead to angry accusations about lack of transparency, both from other countries as well as from the public. This is actually happening now both inside the U.S. and in Western Europe after the Sunday's attack. Thus the use of this particular weapon imposes a certain political pattern of behaviour on the country using it, a pattern that could be embarrassing.

'Tomahawk' booms room

AFP reports from Baghdad: Journalists and others at Baghdad's Rashid Hotel are receiving mysterious phone calls from a man who identifies himself as "Tomahawk" and who promises to visit them on July 4, U.S. Independence Day.

Operators at the hotel said he had telephoned 10 times a day since U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles struck Iraq's intelligence headquarters on Sunday, reportedly killing six civilians.

"My name is Mister Tomahawk. I'm calling you from the United States and I'll visit you on July 4," the caller told guest Michel Haj, a correspondent for the television network WTN.

The caller asked Mr. Haj to reserve a room for him on the 14th and last floor so he can see "Baghdad burn."

Hotel operators said "Mister Tomahawk" sometimes asks to speak to the receptionist and sometimes to be connected to the rooms.

On Jan. 17 a Tomahawk missile struck Al Rashid Hotel, killing two employees during a U.S. attack on what Washington described as a weapons-making plant south of Baghdad.

The January attack occurred three days before U.S. President George Bush, Iraq's arch foe in the Gulf war, left office.

Legal eagles in a land of sharks

By Tina Susman
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — The elderly man was clearly distressed as he told how a noisy American military patrol caused his camel to stop giving milk and eventually flee into the bush, where she was devoured by a lion.

Were it not for the lion — there aren't any to speak of in Somalia — his claim might have been believed by the sympathetic soldier listening to him.

Instead, it joined the claims dismissed by U.S. troops negotiating with Somalis seeking compensation for everything from lost lives to lost goats.

Each Tuesday and Saturday, about two dozen Somalis gather outside U.S. military headquarters to face an army legal team that investigates the claims and works out settlements.

The procedure is not new. By U.S. law, American troops overseas must compensate civilians injured in non-combat incidents involving soldiers.

What is new is the challenge of verifying claims in a chaotic country stripped of official records and filled with hungry, jobless people whose desperation is sometimes made evident by brutality.

Captain Jody Mhehr, a lawyer who heads the legal team, recalled a family seeking \$5,000 for the death of a daughter hit by an American

Humvee. The case was rejected when Somali witnesses backed up the driver's claim that the mother pushed the girl in front of the armoured vehicle.

About 80 per cent of claims are rejected, compared to about 20 per cent in Germany and other places where U.S. troops are stationed.

"If it's a property claim, they have to prove they own the property, which is very hard to do here," said Capt. Mhehr. "Most of what they have are copies of copies of copies."

The problem forces investigators to use methods that might be unacceptable elsewhere but work well in Somalia, where word-of-mouth is the best source of information.

In one case, a man claimed his home was damaged by an American armoured vehicle, with no papers to prove ownership. Army investigators went to the property and quickly attracted a crowd of curious neighbours.

We asked them if the person making the claim owned the house. They said "no," Capt. Mhehr said. Case closed.

Claims apply only in non-combat situations, meaning damages from this month's U.N. attacks against warlord Mohammed Farrah Aideed could not be claimed.

Captain Roger Cartwright heard the nervous camel claim. He also recalled two self-proclaimed drug-dealer high on the local weed who interna-

tionally rammed their car into an American tank and demanded compensation.

But there was also the man whose only relative, a son, was killed in March when a soldier's weapon accidentally fired at a checkpoint. The man defended on his son for support and asked for 100 camels in compensation, Capt. Cartwright said.

The military, not wanting to get involved in livestock trading, spoke to Somali farmers, and decided to offer \$100 per camel. The devastated father preferred camels but was forced to take the \$10,000, Capt. Cartwright said.

The maximum payout is \$12,500, a letdown for claimants demanding anywhere from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for vehicles damaged or destroyed by U.S. forces. Most cars in Somalia are dented, rusted hulks looted several times over or not worth stealing, but that doesn't stop people from trying.

Muhyiddin Tahow Mahmud was on line Tuesday to demand \$10,000 for a pickup truck allegedly damaged by American tanks. He said he did not bring any ownership documents because of the rain, he did not want them to get soggy.

Even when people win cases, they're not always satisfied. One woman rejected her \$5,000 damage payment because it was not in crisp, new \$100 bills.

Algeria crisis worse a year after leader slain

By Rachid Khari
The Associated Press

ALGIERS — A year after the assassination of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf, no one knows who was behind the killing and no one seems able to stop the spiral of violence that started when he came to power to crush Muslim fundamentalists.

The protracted battle with Islamic extremists has reportedly left nearly 1,500 people dead since Mr. Boudiaf was named by the army to run the country in January 1992.

Boat sirens wailed in the Algiers harbour and chaotic traffic came to a halt for a minute Tuesday morning in memory of the slain leader. The state-run radio and television played the national anthem.

Three members of the ruling five-man high state council,

which Mr. Boudiaf headed, accompanied by Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam, laid a wreath at Mr. Boudiaf's grave at Algiers' Al Alia cemetery.

Mr. Boudiaf, 73, was shot to death June 29, 1992, in a hail of automatic gunfire while making a speech in the eastern city of Annaba.

A member of Mr. Boudiaf's special body guard, Lembarak Boumaaraal, described as a fundamentalist, was charged with the killing but still awaits trial.

An investigative commission deemed the assassination an "isolated act" by a crazed man. But his widow, Fatima, rejecting that theory, continues to press for "the whole truth."

Mr. Boudiaf, a hero of Algeria's independence war with France, was brought home from exile in Morocco to head the five-man leadership set up by the army to thwart a

rise to power of a fundamentalist movement seeking an Islamic state.

The army's decision to cancel legislative elections in the midst of a huge win by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) bred a vicious underground war by the movement's extremist followers that authorities can neither lick nor shake.

Since March, the armed Islamic underground, which usually operates in hit-and-run attacks on security forces, has targeted, killing six noted intellectuals or professionals with ties to the regime or views it considers anti-Islamic.

Bringing a sense of historic legitimacy to the new regime and an untainted reputation, Mr. Boudiaf had a wide following among Algeria's modernists, but he also made enemies.

In his six-month reign, Mr. Boudiaf made broad moves to crush the fundamentalist movement, sending thousands of sympathizers to desert camps and jailing its leaders.

But he also moved to end the rampant corruption that contributed to the fundamentalists' popularity among the country's poor and unemployed.

Assassination theories, relayed by the press, focused especially on the "political-military mafia" that flourished under the National Liberation Front, the party that ruled Algeria for nearly three decades.

Under Al. Kafi, Mr. Boudiaf's successor, the campaign to uncover corruption has slackened off as the pace of the offensive on fundamentalists picks up.

Authorities, calling the Islamic extremists a national threat, have vowed to "exterminate terrorism." But a state of emergency declared in February 1992, an ongoing curfew, thousands of crack troops and three special anti-terrorist courts dealing swiftly and harshly with suspects have failed to do so.

The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights charged Monday that the use of torture is "tolerated and approved" by the regime.

"We are witnessing a system of encircling, sectioning and control of the population with numerous arrests, extra-legal executions, the return in force of the phenomenon of torture and daily death," the league said.

The ruling council, which is to end its term at year's end, this month made public a platform for the future that foresees a transition period of two to three years before national elections can be held.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French, Moroccan reported missing in Iraq

PARIS (R) — French state radio said Tuesday that a French engineer had been jailed for eight years and a Moroccan colleague was missing after they crossed into Iraq from Kuwait. Radio France Internationale (RFI) quoted relatives as saying the 25-year-old engineer, Jean-Luc Barriere, and his 29-year-old Moroccan colleague, Mohamed El-Hachimi, had been in the desert 10 days ago on their weekly Friday break. The relatives said Mr. Barriere had been sentenced to eight years in prison for illegally entering Iraq. The French foreign ministry said it had received reports that a Frenchman had been jailed in Iraq after crossing from Kuwait and was trying to confirm the incident. RFI said Mr. Barriere, 25, worked for a telecommunications company rebuilding Kuwait's telephone network damaged in the Gulf war. It said the missing Moroccan had been living in the French town of Brest, and his relatives were trying to get the support of Morocco's King Hassan to inquire about his fate.

10 die in hotel fire in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Ten people, believed to be mostly Russian and Iranian women, died in a fire which broke out at a hotel in Van town on Turkey's eastern border Wednesday, journalists at the scene said. Twenty-eight people were injured, including two Danes, seven Russians and three others from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Anatolian news agency reported. Medical authorities were having a hard time identifying the victims because they had been badly burned, reporters at the scene told Reuters. The fire broke out at the Yenigun hotel after midnight. The modest hotel was used mostly by women travellers from Russia and other CIS countries, the private Kanal 6 television channel said. Van officials, investigating the cause of the fire, were considering the possibility of arson, Kanal 6 said. Many Russian women who came to Turkey on tourist visas have been expelled by police for prostitution. Kanal 6 said Russian women in Van, a conservative Muslim community, had earlier received anonymous warnings that they were not wanted in the town.

S. Koreans search for 47 missing Iranians

SEOUL (R) — South Korean police are searching for 47 Iranians who slipped into the country and then disappeared without trace, the domestic Yonhap news agency said Wednesday. It said the Iranians entered South Korea this month in two groups, and then failed to check into their hotels. Official police confirmation was not available but Yonhap said the Iranians are suspected of working illegally in South Korea or of being engaged in other illegal activities.

Australia to lift trade sanctions on Libya

CANBERRA (R) — Australia said Wednesday it has lifted commercial sanctions imposed on Libya in order to pursue business opportunities in the country. The move follows the renewal of trade ties by European countries, a Foreign Affairs and Trade Department spokesman said. Sanctions were imposed in 1986 in response to Tripoli's involvement in global terrorism. A number of other countries have begun to go back into Libya to look for business opportunities, notably European countries, and we feel that there's no longer a requirement for us to penalise the Australian private sector by denying those same opportunities," he told Reuters. Since the sanctions, Australian exports to Libya have fallen. Diplomatic relations with Libya would remain frozen until it cooperated with investigations into the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland, the spokesman said.

Thailand cancels visas for 14 states

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand has cancelled visa requirements for visitors from 14 Middle Eastern and African countries to promote business and tourism, an official said Wednesday. Visitation from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Mauritania, Djibouti, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Israel and Tunisia will now be able to enter Thailand without a visa and stay for up to 15 days, the official said. Visa requirements for most of the countries were imposed in late 1990 after the aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and an increase in tension in the Middle East. Among the countries whose citizens still require visas is Nigeria. Dozens of Nigerians have been arrested here on drugs trafficking charges in recent years.

Filipina maids fly home from Kuwaiti refuge

KUWAIT (R) — Fifty Filipino domestic workers alleging mistreatment by employers headed home Wednesday under a Kuwaiti-funded repatriation plan and will be followed by 324 more in coming weeks, the Philippines embassy said. The women were the second group from an embassy-run refuge to fly home. A first group of 50 flew home on Monday. Consul General Wenceslao Quiroga said by telephone. The refuge, which had held 424 maids before their repatriation started, will be closed when all the maids have left, he said. The repatriation would be completed in the next few weeks. He said about 20 Filipinas currently held in a government detention centre for various reasons would also be repatriated. Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah was paying all travel costs, he said. The maids had fled to the embassy alleging mistreatment including non-payment of wages or physical abuse such as rape. Some had been at the refuge for up to a year.

German doctor disappears in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A German doctor disappeared shortly after arriving for a medical convention earlier this month, and police said Wednesday they don't have any leads. The missing man is Dr. Armin Stanjek, 43, from the western German town of Duisburg, said Hand-Dieter Steinbach, spokesman for the German embassy in Tel Aviv. A photo of Dr. Stanjek was shown on Israel Television's evening news Tuesday at the request of the embassy. Dr. Steinbach said, "The information we have is very thin, and we can't rule out anything," the spokesman added. Dr. Stanjek arrived June 12 to attend a medical convention, police said. Dr. Stanjek asked hotel staff for schedules of buses to the Qumran Caves on the Dead Sea and was last seen at the hotel reception at 7:40 a.m. the next day. He was declared missing June 20, the day he was most of Dr. Stanjek's belongings were still there, Mr. Steinbach said. Dr. Stanjek's passport was also found.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMS TWO
17:25 Superchamps
17:55 L'ecole des fans
18:00 News in French
19:15 Fusion
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:10 Quantum Leap
21:30 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Presumed Guilty"

PRAYER TIMES

05:54 Fajr
07:25 Sunrise/Dhuhr
12:39 Dhuhr
16:29 Asr
19:55 Maghreb
21:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweetfish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 623590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 752561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Armenia Interfaith Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824338
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654972
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Agaba 23/36
Deiries 16/35
Jordan Valley 21/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Ghaleb Z. Zaidieh 738011
Dr. Mahmud Al-Hindi 896787
Dr. Fawaz Al-Dabbas 759155
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al-Azma pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Shayeb pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 637660
Najit pharmacy 847632

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp. Amman 17/32

ZARQA:
Dr. Youssef Abu Saad 989900
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 19
Rescue Police P2, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891226
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 866790
Public Security Department 636321
Hotel Complaints 605840
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897447
Complaints 661176
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0024
Central Amman Telephone 0024
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636331
RJ Flight Information 08-53280
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 185-53240

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 812121
Shahid Motenilly, 1 Ave. 642261
Akilieh Maternity, J. Amn. 642417
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesan 664713
Shmiesan Hospital 661131
University Hospital 655805
Al-Muasher Hospital 667274
The Islamic, Al-Jalal 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664160
Italian, Al-Muhajira 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 80161015
Quswa Al-Hospital 602280/40
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)999440
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hama Modern Hospital (09)999440
IRBID:
Princeps Basma Hospital (05)785555
Girel, Calab, Hospital (05)272278
Ibn Al-Nafar Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Hava Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)533005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 Sanaa (RJ)
05:30 Aden (RJ)
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:55 Lampara (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
20:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 Lampara (RJ)
13:00 Paris (RJ)
13:05 Athens (RJ)
21:30 London (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain (RJ)
22:00 Doha (RJ)
22:05 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:05 Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 Antalya (TK)
13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:05 Riyadh (SU)
16:45 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 Lampara (RJ)
13:00 Paris (RJ)
13:05 Athens (RJ)
21:30 London (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain (RJ)
22:00 Doha (RJ)
22:05 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:05 Muscat (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple 700
Banana 68

UNRWA plans no relocation of base Only some offices to move to Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) does not have any plans to transfer its headquarters from Vienna, a senior UNRWA official said Wednesday.

The agency, which offers services to Palestinians displaced as a result of the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and the Arab-Israeli wars that followed, is moving some of its departments to Amman before July 1994, but this does not mean any transfer of headquarters, said Elie Saaf, area coordinator for UNRWA in Amman.

The education and audit departments of UNRWA will be moving to Amman in July, to be followed by the technical services department — in charge of design, construction and maintenance of buildings in August, Mr. Saaf told the Jordan Times.

By July 1994, the relief services and programme planning departments will also be relocated to Amman, he said.

"But these moves do not mean transfer of headquarters," said Mr. Saaf. The main administration of the agency will remain in Vienna.

Reports in the local press had said that the agency was moving to Amman in preparation for better interaction with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ahead of an expected agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on a five-year in-

terim self-rule arrangement in the occupied territories.

Mr. Saaf and other UNRWA officials said the move of some of the departments of the agency to Amman did not have any political motive, but was more related to logistics.

"We are not aware of any political consideration behind the move," said another senior UNRWA official.

The transfer of the departments to Amman is expected to create job vacancies since some of the staff members who were in Vienna opted not to move to Jordan, he said. Some of them retired and others resigned and were paid compensation, he added.

The agency employs nearly 20,000 people.

UNRWA was based in Beirut until 1978 when the Lebanese civil war forced it to move to Vienna.

The government of Syrian-backed Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, who took power in line with an Arab-mediated peace plan for Lebanon in 1991, has been campaigning on the international as well as regional levels to have U.N. agencies and multinational corporations return to Beirut.

Mr. Saaf said there was "pressure" for the agency to return to Beirut, "but the idea of moving back to Beirut is not yet entertained as practical."

UNRWA offers educational, health and social services to 2.4 million Palestinians registered with the agency through its field

offices in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. Saaf said the agency had not overcome its budget deficit of \$28 million for 1993.

"We have received some extra contributions from donors not enough to address the budget problems," he said.

During the Arab League meeting in Cairo, it was reported that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states had offered to make up the deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget after UNRWA Commissioner-General Iler Turkmen made an appeal.

But, UNRWA insiders say the promises have not been fulfilled.

"Unless we have a definite commitment in terms of official announced pledges or actual transfers, we cannot say our problems are over," said a senior UNRWA source.

Arab countries have been reluctant to contribute funds to UNRWA in their capacity as Arab League members, but have helped the agency through contributions as members of the U.N.

The main reasoning behind the stand is that UNRWA represents the Western responsibility towards the Palestinian refugees since the West was the main force behind the creation of the state of Israel in the first place.

And, the Arab states say, sustained Arab contributions to UNRWA could gradually erode the international nature of the agency's mandate.

Water scarcity is unavoidable fact, proper use is urged — prime minister

AMMAN (Petra) — "We have to live with the fact that water is scarce in Jordan, but we ought to maintain proper use of what we have," cautioned Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday.

In a meeting at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, attended by Minister Bassam Kakish and other officials, said the facts about the Kingdom's water situation should be placed before the public so that every citizen can be involved in ensuring water security.

The Premier said efficiency of any establishment or department does not come through a Prime Minister's official communiqué, but rather as a result of responsible employees shouldering their duties.

He said the Ministry of Water

and Irrigation and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) should produce an informative study including facts and figures on Jordan's water situation and present it to the public through the media and information services.

Dr. Majali stressed that such information will help the public in contributing to more efficient uses of water and in stemming water pollution.

Withholding the facts, Dr. Majali maintained can only encourage unorthodox and wasteful usage of this precious resource.

He urged WAJ to take all necessary measures to collect payments of overdue water bills from citizens and institutions, which he estimated to amount to nearly JD 10 million.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Kakish outlined the difficul-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday reviews the Kingdom's fragile water situation with

Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish and other officials of the ministry and the Water Authority of Jordan (Petra photo)

ties facing the ministry, noting that the main problems remain limited water resources and the ministry's accumulating financial deficit.

Other difficulties, he said, include insufficient qualified staff

and machinery.

Mr. Kakish outlined the measures adopted to deal with the public's complaints about water supply disruptions, but added that the growing population and limited means were making the

ministry's task increasingly difficult.

The minister urged the public to pay water bills on time and warned that the WAJ would cut off water supplies to delinquent subscribers.

Rift widens in JDPUP as Marji resignation accepted

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The acceptance of the resignation of Lower House of Parliament Deputy Deeb Marji from the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUP) Wednesday signalled a widening rift between old guard party scions and the party's younger members in what threatens to become a political stand-off, party observers said Wednesday.

Azmi Khawaja, secretary general of the JDPUP, confirmed that the resignation of Dr. Marji along with resignations of four other party members had been accepted and processed.

"These people wished to resign and because we are a democratic organisation we respected their wishes and accepted their resignations," Mr. Khawaja told the Jordan Times.

The party acceptance of the resignation had been uncertain since Dr. Marji had handed in his resignation a week ago.

But political observers close to the party's rank and file charged that the JDPUP leadership, to which Dr. Marji belonged, is desperate to keep hegemony over

decision-making issues and is quizzing younger, more democratic elements out of the party in a bid to hold on to power.

"The old guard is manipulating the hierarchy of the party in a bid to control the majority of the party's congress," said a source close to the leadership on condition of anonymity Wednesday.

"The party leadership has proven itself incapable of reform and adaptation to the democratic era," continued the source in a blistering attack which he concluded by calling for the party congress to elect a new leadership.

"The old leadership must resign and elections held, the position of secretary general of JDPUP should be for a term of two, non-renewable years to rule out tyranny," said the source.

Dr. Marji, speaking after a meeting with Irbiid members of the party gathered Tuesday to confer on the future of those affiliated with the party, said "nobody elected the current leadership of the party and that in and of itself is rather undemocratic."

governorate in the 1989 legislative elections, cited lack of democracy and hedonism, as well as power lust as the main reasons for his resignation from the party.

"My main worry however," Dr. Marji told the Jordan Times, "is for the young members of the party who threaten to be disillusioned by its failure to democrati-

But political observers of the party say Dr. Marji, whom they call the leader of the younger guard of JDPUP members, has nothing to fear.

One scenario that is being forwarded is that Dr. Marji along with some 25 former party members, who resigned about two months ago, will lure the party's youth to their side and form a parallel party that will force the old guard to "die out."

The other scenario, seen by most observers as less likely, is that there will be a "coup d'état" in the party ranks that will unseat the current leadership and call for elections.

"The leadership is very stubborn and archaic, and it is very unlikely that they will give up without a huge row," said one of the several politicians who tried

to mediate between the leadership and Dr. Marji.

Most of the resignees, who include 24 members from the Amman and Zarka branches of the party, are the cream of the crop, say observers, and are likely to have what it takes to rebuild the party into a democratic organisation.

Because of the lack of democracy, say the observers the party's active membership has been reduced "by about half."

"Those who resigned are all voluntary members, and all those that stayed get paid salaries by the party and are mercenaries of sorts," said one particularly critical observer of the JDPUP.

The JDPUP officially came into being as a political group in May 1990 and was granted legal party status early this year along with four other left-wing parties.

But the organisation and most of its members have a long-standing political presence in the country. Originally belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, many of the supporters found a need for a Jordanian political party with the same avowed political thought of the PFLP, after the 1988 decision by His Majesty King Hussein to

sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

The separation of these Palestinian territories from Jordan thus made a separation of political parties necessary. Most Jordan-based members of the PFLP became members of the JDPUP in 1990.

Although the name Jordan was stressed in the party's name, the political and economic programme remained similar to that of the PFLP.

Most of the groups current members were avowed supporters of Palestinian leader George Habash, for decades the most popular Palestinian leader second only to Yasser Arafat himself. Dr. Habash, unlike Mr. Arafat, never used the language of diplomacy in advocating the Palestinian struggle for independence and statehood.

Dr. Habash's refusal to accept the concept of anything by a united secular Palestinian state on the land which was British mandate Palestine was adopted by JDPUP and is part of their official platform.

The party rejects the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks as they stand.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with UNRWA Commissioner General Iler Turkmen (second from right). Attending the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and UNRWA representative in Jordan Dennis Brown

Majali meets UNRWA chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner General Iler Turkmen Wednesday met the agency's determination to continue all services to the Palestinian refugees under its auspices.

Speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Mr. Turkmen expressed appreciation to the Jordanian government for its efforts in helping UNRWA carry out its work.

The prime minister said Jordan

was deeply concerned for residents of refugee camps in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Dr. Majali told Mr. Turkmen that the Jordanian government was particularly concerned with the suffering caused them by Israel's punitive measures and appealed to the United Nations to exert efforts to alleviate the suffering.

In discussing UNRWA's services to the refugees, Dr. Majali stressed the need for financial

assistance to the agency.

Mr. Turkmen, who arrived here Tuesday evening on his way to Syria, met earlier with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and reviewed the agency's services to the Palestinian refugees and UNRWA's financial difficulties.

The meetings were attended by head of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department Adel Irshaid and UNRWA's director in Jordan Dennis Brown.

\$12m Italy-financed hospital scheduled for construction start

AMMAN (Petra) — An Italian firm will start construction of a \$12 million hospital in Karak in the next two months and its seeking to contract a local consultancy firm to carry out the project, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas announced Wednesday.

The new hospital, which was to get under way in mid-June, will be financed totally by the Italian government, said Health Ministry sources.

Jordan has already set the infrastructure for the project at the estimated cost of JD 1 million.

said the minister.

The ministry has now requested the ministries of Public Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources, Post and Communications to supply the related services to the project site, Dr. Malhas added.

He said the Italian firm will contract one of two Jordanian firms now under review to help implement the project.

Dr. Malhas said, the deal, which was signed in Rome, followed intensive contacts between the Italian embassy and the

Health Ministry in Amman over the last two weeks in order to speed up procedures for the start of work on the new hospital.

Jordan and Italy signed an agreement for the construction of the 100-bed hospital in 1988, but were awaiting the completion of the infrastructure before embarking on the construction.

Health Ministry sources said the hospital could be expanded later to 200 beds to accommodate the Karak governorate's needs until the year 2000.



TRADE AGREEMENT: The Arab Union for Food Industries (AUFI) Secretary-General Falaq Jaber, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday sign an agreement to establish a permanent trade bureau in Amman. The agreement aims at encouraging the exchange of national goods among Arab countries and helping Arab nations to conclude trade deals with foreign firms supplying food products or primary goods to the Arab World. It also aims at helping member states in the union to market their products by offering them technical advice and import and export information.

Students at Yarmouk voice pre-election views

By Tareq Ayyoub Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Some university students, in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, expressed their views on the coming election and concurred that the Islamic factions will be the big winners in the Kingdom's parliamentary elections expected this fall. They added that the present House has failed to achieve promises made to its constituents in the 1989 elections.

Nasser Al Din Laffi, a student of science, said that if 1989 election law was still to be used, the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic factions would get the majority of the seats in the 80-seat Lower House.

Another student said that he believed these groups were popular among the people, but added that time was not ripe to give the party that wins elections the right to form the government.

Omar Ali Yousef, an English literature undergraduate, opposed the one-person-one-vote system. Such a system, he said, would enable the well-known tribes to nominate their candidates and win the election. Mr. Yousef said he preferred that each party should have one bloc, and that people should vote for party lists.

According to another student, who said it is not an opportune time to give the winning party the right to form the government, the one-person-one-vote system will result in "instability in society and will cause many problems."

studies law, supported the present election law, adding that it would protect the political parties' rights, but found the one person-one-vote system unacceptable.

Many students charged that the Lower House of Parliament achieved little. The deputies, they said, were concentrating on political issues, neglecting major economic and social issues.

Ahmad Nawfleh, a mass communication and journalism student said the House was weak in dealing with the major issues. Distribution of income and price increases were not touched, he maintained.

The government, Mr. Nawfleh said, was using the House as a channel to implement its programmes.

The students agreed that the political parties could not fulfil promises they made in the last election.

Mr. Yousef said that what parties were concerned with now was merely propaganda for the coming election.

Mr. Laffi added that the reason behind this ill-performance was the lack of cooperation between the government and the deputies. Although these students expressed willingness to take part in the elections, they believed that the majority of Yarmouk University students were indifferent towards political life in Jordan.

According to Mr. Yousef, fear of the political regime and the "lack of confidence in our democracy" are responsible for this passivity.

FAO operations chief lauds Jordan's agricultural sector

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

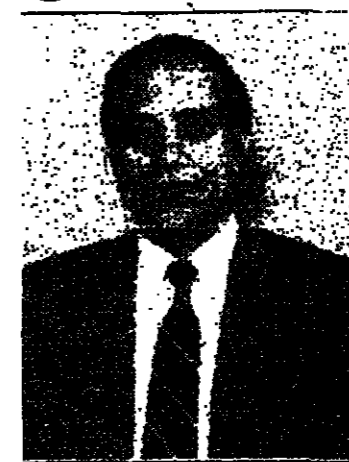
AMMAN — Jordan has made considerable progress in developing its agricultural sector, but much more remains to be done in terms of advanced technology in production as well as processing and marketing, an international expert said Wednesday.

M. K. Muthoo, director of operations of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said the FAO was seeking to bring in the technology and experience of other countries to Jordan and also to offer the benefit of Jordan's experience to other countries.

Dr. Muthoo, the longest-serving director in the U.N. system and considered one of the top international experts on the environment and agriculture and forestry management, said he was closely familiar with Jordan's agriculture sector since the 1970s.

"Despite its limited resources and climatic peculiarities, Jordan has done an excellent job in developing its agriculture," Dr. Muthoo told the Jordan Times, adding that the FAO respects the Kingdom's record, which could serve as a pointer to many countries in the Third World seeking sustained development in agriculture.

"While it has achieved a great deal, Jordan needs to do much more, and the FAO stands ready to offer whatever is needed," said Dr. Muthoo, an Indian national who had had extensive experience in his country's agricultural development before joining the



M. K. Muthoo

FAO. Dr. Muthoo, who arrived here Tuesday and held talks with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal and Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Director Anis Muasher, said Jordan needed "technological packages designed to develop low water-consuming sectors of agriculture."

"Water is one of the main constraints that Jordan and other countries in the region face in their efforts to develop agriculture," he said.

Developing sectors like livestock and animal husbandry, dryland farming, growing dew-gathering trees which could collect water and choosing special species of crops which consume less water are some of the options available to Jordan, he said.

"If applied correctly these options could give an edge to Jordan in agriculture output and, if supported by advanced methods of marketing and processing, the country could have a highly competitive advantage in the international market," said Dr. Muthoo.

"Dramatically increasing food crops is definitely not the answer to achieving food security for countries with geographical features like Jordan," he said. "Such an effort could be detrimental since most food crops consume a lot of water."

In his talks with Dr. Kamal, the FAO official promised to pursue means of enhancing cooperation and offering assistance to Jordan. "We will try to bring the FAO closer to the doorsteps of Jordan," said Dr. Muthoo. He declined to elaborate, but the comment was seen as a reference to the possibility of FAO opening new offices in the Kingdom.

"FAO cooperation with Jordan will not be limited to the typical north-south relationship," he said. "We will try to bring Jordan closer to those centres of excellence in the developed world as well as those in the developing world."

Dr. Muthoo also pledged to support Jordan's efforts in the context of environmental protection and conservation by raising international funds to back the Kingdom's endeavours.

"There is an increased international focus on the importance of the environment and, as such, chances are good to solicit financial assistance," he said, recalling that he had successfully led a \$10 million FAO-funded project for the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.



QALIA FACILITIES: Transport Minister Salman Al Tarabzaji Wednesday visits the Royal Jordanian (RJ) various facilities and departments at Queen Alia International Airport (QALIA). The minister, who is accompanied by RJ's Executive Officer Makhmoud Jamal Balqaz (right) toured the workshops of the national carrier's technical department which conduct maintenance on RJ aircraft and other Arab and foreign carriers and employs more than 1,200 Jordanian technicians and engineers.

Mr. Tarabzaji also visited RJ's Training Centre and was familiarised with pilot and flight attendant simulator training. The centre has organised more than 82 courses since the beginning of the year for more than 900 trainees from RJ and other airlines. The minister concluded his tour visiting the Catering and Air Services Division. Also accompanying the minister on the tour were Public Relations officer Munib Touqan (left) and Technical Department chief Zeid Al Kilani (second from left).

Premier implements after hours rule

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday issued a communiqué calling on secretaries general of ministries and directors of government departments to participate in meetings of boards of directors of companies and committees only after office hours. The communiqué said the decision was taken to enable government senior officials to allot more time to the requirements of their daily duties.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Hima Ali and Karim Rasan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Esheela Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings in watercolour, oil and acrylics by Mrs. Heidi Evers at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Samia Zaru at the Marriott Hotel.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Animal Farm" at 7 p.m. at the British Council.

Jordan Times

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A structure to build on

THE RESULT of the United Nations Security Council vote Tuesday on the Bosnian situation underscores the urgency of the need for reforming the council. The non adoption of the non-aligned nations' draft resolution calling for lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia confirms this request for urgent change in the composition of the council charged with the mandate of maintaining peace and security worldwide. When the majority of the United Nations member states continues to fail to have its views endorsed by the council, it becomes clear that the current membership of the principal international organ on peace and security does not enjoy the trust or confidence of the international community. This is not surprising, in fact, since the present make-up of the council reflects not today's world order but that which emerged in the wake of World War II, an era that passed almost five decades ago. The prevailing anachronism within the Security Council needs therefore to be addressed, and fast, if the United Nations wants to be the mainstay of the so-called new international order.

The first step in the direction of correcting the council is to expand its membership in order to include more equitable representation of the developing countries, notably by India, Nigeria, Brazil and one Arab country to be named by the Arab World. Europe also needs to be better represented in the council by such states as Germany. Japan is also a prime candidate for membership.

Next in the chain of correcting measures that must be introduced to the council would be a call for a review of the veto rights still held by a few select countries. There were less than 50 countries that were members of the international organisation when the present five permanent members of the council were accorded veto rights. The international scene has changed dramatically since those days, and now the number of the United Nations member states has climbed to well over 180 countries. There is, therefore, no justification for the existing discrimination against weaker states and the corresponding favouritism being bestowed on Washington, Paris, London, Moscow and Peking. The rules of the international game have evolved dramatically over the past few years and this evolution calls for reflection within the United Nations system as a whole. Once these structural improvements are incorporated, there will be greater faith in the international organisation as the most viable and operational international system for maintaining international and regional peace and security. Then and only then would weak countries, like Bosnia, and other small states, have an opportunity to receive justice from the international community. Meanwhile, the Bosnian Muslims will have to count on someone other than the United Nations or its principal organs for salvation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily criticised the U.N. Security Council for failing so far to end the plight of the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina and end the Serbian aggression. Despite repeated appeals by the Bosnian president to the council to intervene, nothing has been done to stop the genocide and the ethnic cleansing operations in the embattled country, said the daily. The killing of innocent civilians continues unabated while the Americans and Europeans, who brag about human rights, remain passive, charged the daily. While condoning such atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United States and its allies continue to launch aggression on civilians in other parts of the world, added the daily. It seems, said the paper, that nobody cares about the killing of Arabs or Muslims and that the Security Council is not concerned in the least about humanitarian matters. It is regrettable, the paper added, that the Arab and Muslim nations continue to remain indifferent to the plight of their kinsmen, and it is they who have encouraged the Western and colonial powers to pursue their aims.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily warned of the consequences of the current U.S.-Israeli plots against Iran and Iraq and called on the two nations to join their forces vis-a-vis the common threat. Mohammad Kawash said Yitzhak Rabin has recently claimed that Iran is becoming a regional power that threatens both the Arabs and Israel. These statements aimed at Iran are closely linked to an American-Israeli plot to dominate the destiny of the Middle East region, charged the writer. He said that under the so-called new world order, the U.S.-Israeli alliance is bent on eliminating the military power of Iraq and Iran before reshaping the destiny of this region and drawing new geographical and political maps. This unholy alliance is bent on making Turkey and Israel — both close allies of the West — as the dominant powers with the greatest influence, continued Kawash. Therefore, he said, the United States is bound to maintain the sanctions on Iraq and pursue its conspiracies on Iran in order to achieve that goal. The writer warned Tehran and Baghdad against these plots, urging them to take measures towards ending their differences and to join forces in the face of the common danger.

U.S. is not prepared to pay for 'the craven fear of being great'

By G.H. Jansen

THE SINGULARLY maladroit U.S. cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad highlights a problem for the U.S., with which the Clinton administration has been struggling back and forth for several months.

This is the problem: How does the One World Power (OWP) project its power so that it impacts on the world in general or on any particular situation, taking into account that the U.S. is not prepared to pay the price of power either in blood or in treasure.

The "treasure" the financial restriction, was presented to the world in a recent statement by a senior White House adviser, Peter Tarnoff, when he said that because of America's strained economic circumstances it would have to pay less attention to foreign affairs than to domestic ones. Hurried denials had to be issued that this did not signal a turn towards isolationism. But, in fact, the restriction remains, resulting in sizeable cuts in the defence budget leading to further debates on how a reduced U.S. military apparatus can deal with the possibility of fighting a two-front war simultaneously.

The "blood" restriction is all too obvious when, for instance, apologists of the cruise attack argue that that weapon was used because it is pilotless and so risks no U.S. lives. Hence, too, all the arguments against risking U.S. lives in Bosnia. Which led one American columnist to ask: "What are soldiers for, to stand to attention and salute?"

After the "Desert Storm" campaign against Iraq, President George Bush claimed that its success had destroyed the "Vietnam syndrome" of defeat and humiliation. That is not true for

the U.S. military is still hamstrung by its fear of casualties and of the bodybags coming back home.

It was Mr. Bush who codified the new U.S. doctrine of limited activism. The U.S., he said, should commit its forces to action abroad under these ground rules: (1) the intervention had to be "winnable" — a guaranteed success, (2) it had to be of short duration with a clear point of exit — no "quagmire", that special Pentagon nightmare, (3) there had to be allies; and (4) it had to have public support in the U.S.

What these comprehensive limitations add up to is this: a century ago, the English poet laureate, Lord Tennyson, prayed that his countrymen would never suffer from "the craven fear of being great". It is precisely that fear that now afflicts the U.S.; and the more its leaders pontificate about the "leadership" of the OWP, the more fearfully craven are their policies.

The third restriction mentioned above, the need for allies, forces the U.S. to interact with the rest of the world. According to Mrs. Madeline Albright, the U.S. representative at the U.N., the world community now consists of four groups: the decent, developed countries; the decent, developing countries; the rascals, like North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Cuba; and the rubbishy states at all: Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia. The U.S. has to find allies in group one, to help "defend" those in group two, to curb group three and avoid entanglement in the "quagmires" of group four.

But what the U.S. is really looking for in using a new policy of "assertive multilateralism", to use Mrs. Albright's words, are not allies or friendly equals but subordinates whose presence

alongside the U.S. could provide the figleaf of respectability for American intervention, even if that is on a restricted scale.

But there are further restrictions even on an "assertive multilateral" relationship. These have recently been laid down in a document in Washington, designated at PRD 13. According to this paper, the U.S. would participate only if by so doing it serves U.S. national interests, which is obvious and fair enough, but also if the U.S. makes some sort of "special contribution" to the relationship. Which is code language to say that U.S. forces must be under U.S. command and U.S. commanders. As was the case on all fronts in World War II, in Korea, at present in NATO, in "Desert Storm" and in Somalia.

The crisis over Bosnia led Washington to consider but to discard the idea of "assertive multilateral" relations with NATO or even with the Western European Union, WEU. This did not work because NATO and WEU are disputatious and indisposed bodies: the old nations of Europe increasingly question America's leadership, particularly when the U.S. contribution in men and money is decreasing. Other regional groupings like the Organisation of American States or the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are even more unreliable.

This leaves the U.N. as the area in which to deploy "assertive multilateralism" on the U.S. model. At the moment, the U.N. is ideal for this purpose because through U.S. domination of the five permanent members of the Security Council, which dominates the U.N. structure, the U.N. has become a client tool of U.S. policy — a sub-department of the State Department.

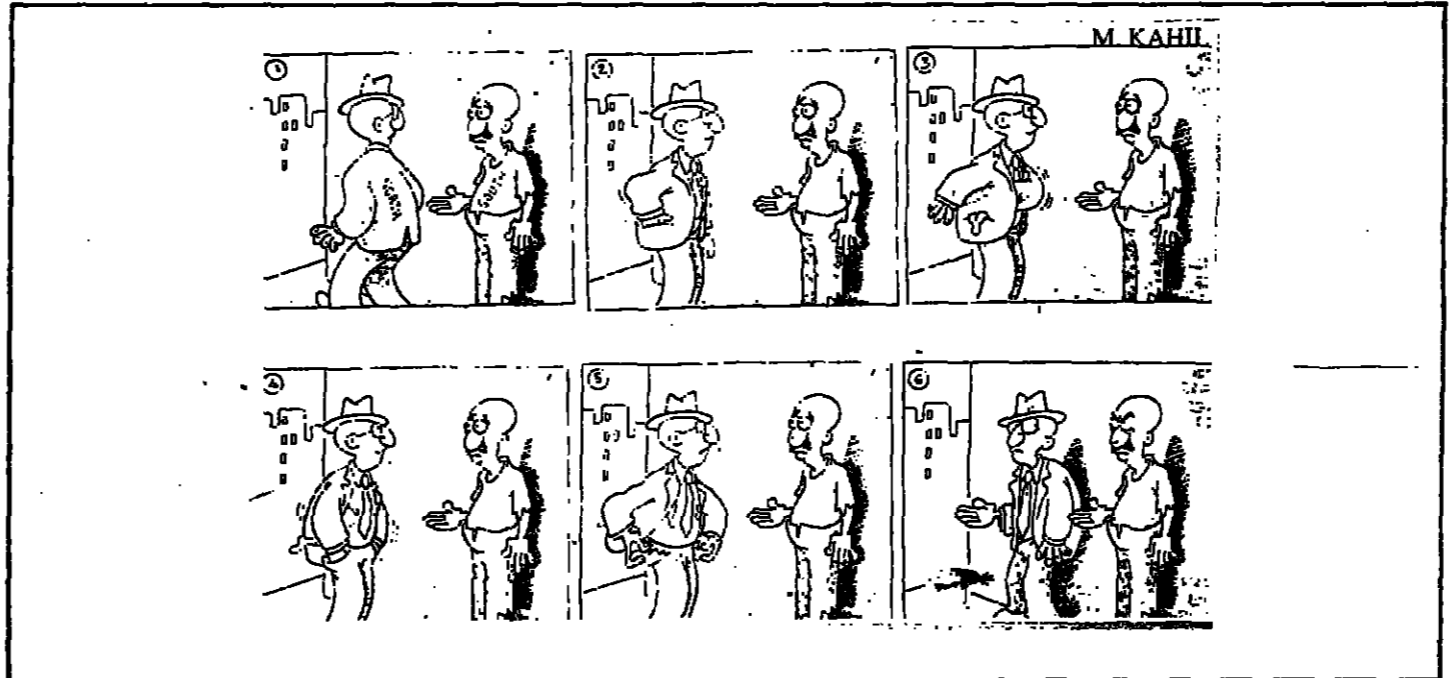
And this dominance continues

and is enhanced even though the U.S. is one of the largest defaulters in paying its debts to the U.N.; but of course, U.S./U.N. can overlook U.S. debts to the U.N.

While the U.S. is ready to "work through" the world body — because when it acts unilaterally as in the two cruise attacks on Baghdad, it provokes a lot of criticism and damning with faint praise — and its soldiers serve under the U.N. flag and wear the blue helmet or beret, it has to be clearly understood that it is really the U.S. that runs the show wherever and whatever it might be. One reason for the American reluctance to put its troops under foreign commanders could be the possible embarrassment of having to explain that U.S. "boys" got killed because of orders from French or Indian or Japanese officers.

Cruise missile strikes do not fit into any pattern of long-term leadership because they are really like commando raids: short, sharp attacks. It is the possibilities laid out in PRD 13, of leadership, but of camouflaged leadership, that are the pattern of the future.

But what if the U.N. fails to fall in with the PRD 13 pattern and refuses to provide the camouflage, as the Security Council did for the latest cruise attack? Then, perhaps, the U.S. policy may conform to the wishes of the large body of opinion in the U.S., and of Mr. Tarnoff, claiming that America should concentrate its now-diminished resources on its domestic problems — the inner cities, unemployment, crime and health care. There would then be no need for foreign demonstrators to say, "Yankee go home", because the Yanks would be going home of their own free will — "a consummation devoutly to be wished."



Saudis attack rulers by tape and fax

By Robert Fisk

Despite attempts by the Saudi authorities to destroy the growing Islamic reformist movement in the country, thousands of cassette tape recordings by anonymous Saudi preachers are again flooding the kingdom. All of them call for political change, an independent foreign policy and a reduction in King Fahd's powers.

Documents in the possession of the Independent show that the demands for reform are on a far larger scale than was previously imagined — and that it was the Gulf war that originally provoked the movement to make a series of political demands and accusations against the behaviour of specific members of the royal family.

The Mukhabarat (Saudi security police) is still trying to identify the anonymous and elderly speaker on a tape now circulating in Riyadh — who calls upon religious leaders to reassess their allegiance to the king. The speaker even advises Mukhabarat officers that they "should be Muslims first" and must not be "fooled" by the government. A second tape by the same speaker warns the royal family that it should no longer assume that the support of the ulama (Saudi religious experts) gives them legitimacy.

The tape declares "When the (Gulf) war finished the government thought it controlled everything and that the victory of the United States over Iraq was a victory for the royal family against internal political opposition."

"The family thought this had confirmed them in power. But they are wrong."

It was in the aftermath of the Gulf war that the Saudi authorities were confronted by the first formal document from the "Islamic movement", sent to King Fahd. It was signed by 400 clerics, scholars and judges, all demanding freedom of speech, equality of citizenship and freedom of the courts.

So shocked was the Saudi royal

family by the impertinence of this open letter that several junior princes, it now emerges, called for the signatories to be put to death, a demand that was turned down by King Fahd. But a series of faxes sent to King Fahd last year (copies of which have been obtained by the Independent) demonstrate just how deep-rooted and personal is the criticism now directed at named members of the royal family.

A fax from a preacher in the southern Assir province, Ayed Bin Abdullah Bin Ayed Al Ouni, alleges that Prince Khaled Al Faisal (the Assir governor, who is a son of King Faisal and a nephew of King Fahd) falsely imprisoned him (because he condemned drug-taking) and tricked him into signing a bogus confession that he opposed the royal family.

A further fax to the king (who is always addressed respectfully as "the protector of the Two Holy Shrines" of Mecca and Medina), attacks another prince in the royal family for allegedly stealing thousands of acres of land and then beating those Saudi property owners who dared to complain. The prince, according to this message to King Fahd, jailed the region's religious sharia court judges when they condemned the prince for refusing to build hospitals, wells and roads.

It would be simplistic, however, to regard these unprecedented complaints to the king as exclusively conventional calls for liberalism and social freedom. Another fax sent to King Fahd, for example, bitterly condemns the existence of "hippy gangs" in the Assir province. The fax continues: "An adulterous woman who left her husband's house with a lover... was caught in the streets and sentenced to five years in prison. But she was released on the orders of the Emir (Prince Khaled)..."

"A homosexual was sentenced to death under decree no 257/2 on the 13th of (March, 1991)..." and

by the Court of Justice six months later. So why has the sentence not yet been carried out?"

Other complaints have focused on tribal feuds and a complex dispute involving the destruction of pilgrims' tents during the 1992 Haj at Mecca. But the bulk of the protests have a strong political undertone.

Other faxes, for example, followed an incident at King Saud University in Riyadh when Sheikh Hamdan Al Hamdan, the leader of Friday prayers, was sacked by Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, the governor of Riyadh, after criticism in the university mosque of government support for peace with Israel. When a new leader of Friday prayers appeared in the mosque a week later, worshippers staged a noisy protest. One of them shouted "Where's our Imam?" and Sheikh Hamdan, who had returned to the mosque as a member of the public, responded: "I've been sacked!" The altercation, which appears to have been orchestrated, was secretly taped and is now circulating as yet another cassette.

If the growing chorus of complaints from religious and secular figures in Saudi Arabia is both disparate and sometimes illiberal, it does have one common theme: a demand for accountability by King Fahd and the princes, and the need for real rather than token participation in decision-making by Saudis outside the royal family.

Several of the documents sent to the king openly deride his plans for the much-publicised Majlis Ash-Shura with which King Fahd has so often attempted to assuage public demands for greater freedom of speech.

The kingdom's attempted suppression this year of the so-called Defence of Legitimate Rights (and the arrest and resignation of its committee chairman, Professor Mohammad Al Masari) can now be seen as another stage in

the struggle between the royal family and a new generation of religious and professional leaders who are demanding some form of participation in the running of the nation.

King Fahd is widely rumoured to be in ill health, although his recent appearances belie this, and familiar reports of family contests for the future leadership are beginning to emerge. Two of King Fahd's brothers, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz (who has already been named crown prince), are now said to be the strongest contenders — respectively representing the "liberal" and "conservative" wings of the family.

But these intrigues have infuriated those who are now convinced that an Islamic identity must at last take the place of tribal loyalties. This has been the underlying message of all the approaches made to King Fahd since a letter addressed to him by a few religious scholars in the winter of 1990 — when western armies were gathered to fight Saddam Hussein — demanded political and social reform.

The subsequent letter and faxes and tapes have effectively destroyed one of the kingdom's primary rules: that the king may be privately advised of complaints but must never be publicly petitioned. The authorities were stunned to discover that the first fax to the king was distributed in Dhahran in the eastern provinces and in Jizan near the Yemeni frontier on the same day.

When the 1992 letter to the king was originally distributed, he persuaded the religious council to condemn its circulation as "sinful," a decision which gave the letter immense publicity and propaganda value.

Cassettes and fax, it seems, are now the most dangerous weapons in the hands of King Fahd's critics — The Independent.

Clans must be a component of political reformation in Somalia

By Daniel Barkley and Carl Milton Peterson

SOMALIA IS a nation without a government. Its peculiar status developed because the previous government failed to incorporate the institutional aspects of Somalia's indigenous culture into a functioning national body.

The Somali society and hence the Somali politics have long been based on a complicated relationship between its many clan families, clans and subclans. There, social mobility and rank are determined primarily by one's clan affiliation rather than one's natural talents or merits.

Naturally, when the nation emerged from the humiliation of colonial rule, it eagerly passed rigorous laws prohibiting hereditary advantages. Yet clan preferences persisted and even flourished despite devout measures to eradicate them. Ironically, clan politics was one of the dominant factors that brought Somalia to its present state of lawlessness.

Every Somali government constructed since independence in 1960, with Mohammad Siad Barre's regime being the most culpable, fell into error by trying to extinguish clan identity and its influence on national politics. It was during the nation's flirtation with "scientific socialism" that Mr. Barre's regime sought to wean the country from its medieval political order. Siad Barre outlawed distinctions and allegiances based on clan affiliation and ethnic differences. Clan-based enmities smacked of feudalism and were therefore incompatible with the central tenets of modern socialism.

Moreover, the inherent segmentation of a clan-based society, conflicted with pan-Somalism — the venerated intention to unite all ethnic Somalis in Ethiopia and Kenya under the rubric of "Greater Somalia". Maintaining strong internal ethnic distinctions undermined Mogadishu's extra-territorial ambitions.

But Mr. Barre was not entirely true to his egalitarian convictions. He protected his regime by taking advantage of clan antagonisms. He kept the nation's most powerful and influential groups far removed from critical political power by filling key government positions with individuals possessing relatively indistinct clan affiliations. Through such evasive actions Mr. Barre was able to divide clan opposition and weaken their political influence throughout the government's bureaucracy.

These tactics however inadvertently escalated the general public's awareness of clan identity. It generated resentment and contempt because it left many of Somalia's prominent clan families politically impotent.

The very cancer Mr. Barre had hoped to remove from the Somali society eventually consumed it. Discontent among Somalis culminated into a clan-based civil

war, which ultimately brought down Siad Barre's government. A stable, viable and fair political system must comprise the essential characteristics of Somalia's complex society. This means revitalising indigenous institutions, restoring traditional powers and giving clans a legitimate outlet for political expression.

The next Somali constitution must not only recognise clans, it should incorporate them into the government's routine decision-making process. A Traditional Powers House, comprising exclusively clan elders, should share in the legislative powers of the government. Traditional refers only to the customs practiced before European colonisation.

Membership in the Traditional Powers House should be perpetual and based on clan affiliation. The process for selecting representatives should be left to each clan.

The Traditional Powers House would give clans a legitimate arena for settling old clan rivalries. Political parties once served this purpose, but they tended to be too preoccupied with parochial agendas to properly address national issues. Moreover, some of Somalia's nomadic subclans are simply too disparate to organise a coherent political party.

Whereas the electoral process inevitably excludes some clan and generously rewards others, a Traditional Powers House would allocate an equal share of power to each and every clan constituency.

A traditionalist government in Mogadishu will not adequately serve all of Somalia's six million citizens; there are other factors to contend with. During the last century, Somalia witnessed the emergence of a new urban class, educated in western-styled schools and employed as merchants and professionals. Though they have not completely divorced tribalism from their day to day lives, the city class does have a growing appreciation of aggregate politics.

The political aspirations of this group cannot be ignored. Somalia's traditional political body should be balanced with a popularly elected assembly that reflects the democratic aspirations of the emerging urban class.

The fusion of a Traditional Powers House with a democratic assembly would serve as a good foundation for a new parliamentary government.

If government is to become a functional and viable institution in Somalia, clans must be a component of the political reformation.

Daniel Barkley is a graduate student in economics at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Carl Milton Peterson is a political science major at UCI's Centre for Global Peace and Conflict Studies. They contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Violating power

To the Editor:

THE latest American attack against Iraq raises three points, according to which the U.S. violated international law.

The first point relates to Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. The U.S. depended on Article 51 to find an excuse for the attack. This article is not applicable here because the U.S. was not exposed to an armed attack from Iraq and was not in a position of self-defence to justify the measures taken against Iraq.

So in this case, the U.S. misused Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This article originally stipulates that any state which is exposed to an armed attack is entitled to defend itself, and it must report about all measures taken to the Security Council immediately.

The second point relates to the violations of the sovereignty of Kuwait and Iraq.

Assuming that the so-called attempt to assassinate ex-president Bush took place in Kuwait, and assuming that Iraq was behind the so-called attempt, then the problem is one between Iraq and Kuwait. It is the prerogative of Kuwait to choose all legal procedures regarding its territory. By attacking Iraq, the U.S. ignored the sovereign rights of both Kuwait and Iraq.

The third point relates to the violations of Article 25 of a document issued in 1922 to regulate the operations of air, attacks, and to protect civilians from these raids. Article 25 states that there must be a humanitarian constraint which protects civilians. The U.S. did not take into consideration the stipulations of this article.

So there are violations of the international law which reflect one thing: Power leads to corruption.

Dr. Sa'ad Abudayeh,
Associate Professor,
Yarmouk University,
Irbid



Weekender

July 1, 1993

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Arabian horses — most noble creatures

By Khawla Hadid

In memory of a bedouin horse breeder, my late father, Sheikh Naif Al Hadid

MAY BE, just like everybody else in Jordan, I would not have paid much attention to writing this article if it had not been for special notes that I have come across among my late father's papers. The notes he had written on Arabian horses struck me as really magnificent, especially the emphasis he had put on the importance that what lies in the thoughts of bedouins and horse breeders must be put down on paper for future generations to know, boast of and acknowledge whenever they are given the chance to breed such noble creatures of Allah.

In Arabic newspapers, so much has been written about different kinds of fanaticism: That of sports, of music, of literature and culture; but there has rarely been written any lengthy discussion of Asil horses' fanaticism. This side has been nearly ignored, although it is based on religion, still lives on in poetry and forms an inalienable

component of the Arab civilisation. Prophet Mohammad told his disciples: "Above all, my recommendation is to devote great care to the broodmares. Their backs are seats of honour, and their bellies are inexhaustible treasures"; and the Prophet also said: "The blessings of this world until Judgment Day shall hang from the forelocks between your horses' eyes".

For all these reasons and others, the bedouins cherished their horses and made every possible effort to maintain and preserve for posterity the Asil Arabian for all the exclusive purity, efficiency and refinement, as well as the other mental and physical qualities. The finest proportioned horses are found in the Arabian Desert, that is to say from Aleppo to Nejd. These include many Arab tribes — Aneza, Roula, Beni Hashem and Wahabites. There is also a widening interest in breeding the Asil Arabian horses in other parts

of the Arab World such as in Egypt, Libya and Morocco.

This "elite horse" known as the "Drinker of the Air" is well known for various qualities that do not exist in other breeds, such as health, the ability to exist on a minimum of food and drink, strong nerves and at the same time a quiet and docile temperament. Beauty is not held as high as pure blood and performance. For a long time now, breeders have often raised the question as to the number of generations significant for the evaluation of origin. They considered inbreeding as the only way to obtain pure-breeding groups. They will often make a tedious effort so that their mares can be bred to stallions of famous descent, although they consider the virtues of the mare more important than those of the sire as they believe that generally the foal will take after the mother more than after the father. These two points are given equal importance, but at birthtime a foal takes after the mother: If the mare is Saqlawi for example, then the foal is considered Saqlawi as well.

The good nature and amiable character of the Arabian pure bred is widely known and abundantly commented upon when one discusses the bedouins' love for their horses. I would like here to make a concise and modest attempt to reveal these characteristics. Only the one who has felt the spirituality of the Asil Arabian is able fully to comment on and appreciate at the same time the rough beauty and gentle refinement. They are "miracles" of patience, endurance, physical perfection and human attachment. It is quoted that "the bedouins succeeded in making the horse as patient as a camel, as fast as a shuqi, and as generous and gentle as themselves". These creatures prove to be most interesting companions. Their loyalty to their riders is often spoken of as they reply to calling their names from vast distances, to the recognition of their owners as they come near, and even to keeping the equilibrium of their riders as these horses balance and sway their bodies from one side to the other so that the rider will never fall off their backs. It is said as well that these horses

own a conscious soul which was really detected after the death of my father: "They bereave their companion not only because he is the protector, but mainly for the loss of his existence amongst them, missing the sugar cubes that he used to spoil them with during their companionship."

The peculiar metallic shine of the hair, the firmness of the tendons and hooves, as well as the mane and tail flying in the air are other qualities which the Asil Arabian is known for. People consider that the Kehailan — pure Arabian bred — is the one noble and perfect horse of all without any need to improve the breed, and one completely made for speed. But while the Kehailan is considered on the one hand to be the masculine type, firm and practical, the Saqlawi on the other hand is regarded as the feminine type — beautiful and very refined. And of course there are various famous breeds such as the Mu'niqi as well as others.

The long list of famous stallions and mares in the Arabian literature (e.g. in the

Kitab Al-Agwan, in Tabari's annals and others) is a strong proof of the individual estimation of each breed of these creatures. Even these days the Arabian breed has become a show horse because of the unique beauty attached to these creatures; and breeders have come to use their most beautiful horses for breeding. Several horse-shows have been held in Amman lately under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia who has dedicated so much of her time and effort to care for the Arabian breed in the Royal Stables, and through the Royal Jordanian Horse Breeders' Association.

What we really expect these days — especially from the Jordanian people — is to show the least interest into this subject giving it a yet wider scope of attention through the publication of articles or documents concerning this treasure of Arab civilisation, so that the information and experience of other generations will not be lost either in the thoughts of people or in the actual breeding of these Arabian horses.

Diary

"PRESS"ED BY LAW: Many leaders of the Arabic press in Jordan seriously think that some of the dailies and weeklies have become advertisement circulars that carry an apologetic news supplement. No one can argue with this assessment of the profitable newsless papers. But it seems that advertisers have discovered that some readers have devised a way to read between the lines for news. Therefore they decided to trap those who still have a fighting spirit by rewriting their ads to read like news. So we have the "so and so" electrical equipment company having a press conference to announce reduction of its prices on its remote control televisions of all sides, to fit all homes. We also read of the "so and so" perfume company holding a press conference to announce the availability of its products in most pharmacies in Jabal Amman. And so on. Someone should have told the readers at one point or another that this practice is banned by law. According to the Press and Publications Law, advertisers have to indicate that the news is not news but an advertising play. Issa Jahamani, the chief censor at the Ministry of Information, has pledged to write to newspapers and impress them with the stipulations of the law on this topic as soon as he deals with more urgent business (please see next item). Meanwhile we will continue to hear comments from readers like the one who recently told a newspaper editor: "If this continues we will one day find the news of a massacre in Yugoslavia trapped between a fridge and a television under a collection of shoes."

MORE "PRESS"ING WORK: Mr. Jahamani has been kept really busy with the new Press and Publication Law. Not only does he have to catch those journalists who dare stay out of the Jordan Press Association, and ensure that the untouchables, according to the law, remain untouchable by overzealous newspapers, but he also has to make sure that Jordanians see as little criticism of the Kingdom as possible in foreign publications even if that required the use of scissors. This week, however, he was faced with the unenviable task of keeping the peace in the country. Having heard — he obviously would not say from where he heard it — that some people were preparing a demonstration Friday, he contacted local newspaper editors to ask them to make sure that demonstrators had received a permit from the Ministry of Interior before publishing news of their demonstration. Mr. Jahamani must have forgotten that while this law applies only if the demonstrators wanted to advertise in newspapers and that news is news with or without a permit, he also underestimated the news value of his phone call. See the evidence already?

IS IT A PLANE? A BIRD? NO. IT IS SUPERMAN. Al Shaab daily newspaper carried a report by a Mr. Mohammad Obeidat this week, which can only be seen as a prime example of how confused and dogmatic some of our "intellectuals" can be. Here is Mr. Obeidat's lead paragraph of a report on a debate over the image of women in the media: "The woman is moving these days tangibly and actively in a race against her arch enemy, man, hoping to rise up to the same status in the ladder of development, participation and production and maybe outdo him without taking into account his obligatory supremacy and that he is superior to her, particularly in these days, when we are talking about elections, a quota for women in the Lower House of Parliament and the ramifications of the new world order on the makeup of the Jordan Women's Association, which has split into two parts: The first being Jordanian and the second 'in Jordan'." End of paragraph. It becomes apparent that Mr. Obeidat has clear views about the "obligatory supremacy" of men in society, and is irked by the "new world order" and wants to indicate that he is disturbed even if it is out of context. So much for the efforts of all those who want to improve the press in Jordan when comments like Mr. Obeidat's are allowed to see the light on what should have been an objective and professional report on a lecture that is important. Meanwhile, we think Mr. Obeidat should compare his status in society with many of the mothers and professional women who have contributed to its evolution and let us know how supreme he feels after that, new world order aside, of course.

A SOURCE OF PRIDE: When news is not bad, it has to be good. In the midst of all that seems to depress Jordanians whether politically, economically or socially, a bright element always emerges to keep us going. Being a subject of His Majesty King Hussein, a particular Jordanian had a particularly pleasant experience. Recently, Rajal Matsika had to undergo medical treatment in England. As part of his checkup programme, Mr. Matsika was treated at Brompton Hospital by a Dr. Newman Taylor. The cost of the tests conducted by the doctor, who is assisted by a Dr. Raed Hashim, came up to £1,500. When Dr. Taylor realised that his patient was a Jordanian national he closed the bill without payment. The doctor said that he was not going to charge a Jordanian because of his "love and admiration for King Hussein." At a time when Jordanians are boycotted and hassled by fellow Arabs it is gratifying to know that it still pays to be a Jordanian even if it is in foreign lands.

Narmeen Muraad

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise — Sigmund Freud, Austrian psychoanalyst (1856-1939).

When you are labouring for others, let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself — Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.)

The luck of having talent isn't enough; you must also have a talent for luck — Hector Berlioz, French composer (1803-1869).

A wise man changes his mind, a fool never (Spanish proverb).

The forgotten city

By Katia Sabet

SA' EL HAGAR, Egypt — On the road leading up to the village, a sign written in German bids visitors welcome. But the message is more a relic of bygone days — when German archaeologists came here to carry out excavations — than evidence of any real hope of seeing coachloads of tourists turn up at this forgotten outpost. Far from the beaten track and from Egypt's main tourist sites, Sa' el Hagar is a shadow of its former self.

Yet this settlement was once the regional capital of the Egyptian Delta. And even now, with a bit of effort, one can glimpse something of its former glory. Beyond the peasant's houses, which flank the only road into the village, and beyond the two old cemeteries — one of them surrounded by a high wall — stretches a landscape reminiscent of a 19th century lithograph, the kind done by artists who loved to capture the romance of a solitary ruin or a crumbling temple in a meadow of wild flowers, strewn with the capitals of old temples and watched over by the inevitable flock of grazing sheep or goats.

Formerly known as Sais, this was in fact one of the wealthiest towns of Egypt's XXVth dynasty. During the sixth and seventh centuries B.C., various temples soared over the area which today acts as pastureland for peasants' goats. And the origins of the town go back much further. For thousands of years, Sais was the capital of Egypt's Delta region. For this was the centre of the flax spinning industry, the fabric sacred to the goddess Neith. Surrounded by rice-paddies and fields of flax and hemp, Sais was, throughout the entire period of the Pharaohs, the place where cloth for winding sheets and bandages was spun and woven to envelop mummies.

Today, little remains to suggest the town's great past save a huge basin, the Sacred Lake of ancient times. Nowadays it is only half filled with murky stagnant water. Nearby, scattered here and there, are ruins of what was once a ring of temples. The River Nile, invisible from here, flows a few hundred yards away, blocked from view by a hill which in its turn has been all but obliterated by a mass of ugly modern buildings.

Schoolchildren pass by these ruins every day on their way home — chattering young girls in their veils who don't pay any heed to the ruins or the greatness they once stood for. But not everyone is oblivious to Sa' el Hagar's great past. The locals still call the whole area by the nickname "El Rabu" — "source of riches" — for the gold artifacts its soil has yielded down the centuries.

And even now, guards patrol the zone to make sure no-one comes to carry out unlawful excavations.

Now it's all over, but a few decades ago, any peasant who dug his fields a bit deeper than the others could be fairly sure of finding gold coins, statuettes, vases and goblets in the furrows as he ploughed," said Khalil Toman, a wealthy peasant.

At the beginning of the century, jewelry dating from the Roman period was unearthed by peasants, who conscientiously handed them over to the authorities. Today, they are on display at the Cairo Museum. But down the years, others who have found treasures have opted for a less altruistic solution, selling their finds to make their own personal fortunes. And there has been plenty of scope for the locals. Gold had an important meaning in the religious life of the ancient Egyptians, and their temples and tombs were full of it.

At a control post — which sticks out like a sore thumb in the midst of this bare landscape — Mohammad El Said, an officer from the tourist police, is yawning his head off, clearly bored to tears by the task he has been given. He longs for the place to burst back into life, to be flooded with archaeological teams and foreign tourists. But there is nothing much to interest tourists, nor will there be until a decision is taken to unearth the remains of an imperial villa used by pharaohs from the XXIVth, XXVth and XXVIth dynasties and presently buried beneath several metres of silt.

It was Pharaoh Amasis, who reigned for an incredible 44 years during the XXVth dynasty, who was mainly responsible for improving and adding to the villa. Herodotus, one of the greatest ever historians to write about ancient Egypt, describes the villa — which he visited the century before Pharaoh Amasis took power — as one of the finest in Lower Egypt. Amasis enlarged the temple to the goddess Neith, building a vast portico, which he had decorated with sphinxes topped with human heads and gigantic statues. The temple, said to have contained the tomb of Osiris — the Egyptian god of the underworld — was an important place for religious festivals and pilgrimages.

Once a year, in honour of the goddess Neith, Sais played host to what was known as the "Feast of the Burning Lamps," a joyful and often riotous affair during which

almost anything was allowed. Horace de Vaujany, a French writer who recorded his impressions of Sais after a visit in 1885 in his "Description of Lower Egypt", wrote of the festivities: "Every inhabitant lit lamps in the open air and placed them around his house. Those who were unable to do so lit lamps inside their homes, so that all the towns of Egypt were lit up at the same time."

A lot of foreigners, especially Greeks and Libyans, lived in the region, and the people of Sais were also known for their travelling. In fact, it was an Egyptian from Sais, by the name of Cecrops, who is said to have founded the city of Athens in the 16th century B.C.

One relic which appears to have survived is the gigantic monolithic chapel, which Pharaoh Amasis had built from a single block of granite extracted from a quarry at Aswan. It took a team of 3,000 people a total of three years to get the vast block from the quarry and up the river to Sais. The chapel measured 11 metres long by 7 metres wide and 4 metres high, with walls more than 1 metre thick. Miraculously, it arrived safe and sound in Sais, but just as it was being lowered into the ring of temples, the scaffolding gave way and the huge mass slipped, crushing many of the workers to a horrible death. Amasis took the terrible accident as a bad omen, and the chapel was left where it had fallen.

It is still there to this day, at least that is what the locals say. Ask anyone where it is and they will point to a giant piece of stone sticking out of the marshes. "There it is, over there," said Moustapha Anwar, a custodian of the former sacred site. "We call it 'El saq'at' — the fallen one. Try as they might, no-one can shift this great block," he



During the XXVth dynasty, Sais in Egypt. Today all that remains was one of the wealthiest towns as crumbling ruins in a pastoral landscape.

added. "It is too heavy. They've tried with tractors and with special machinery — but none of them has had the slightest effect."

As it turned out, Pharaoh Amasis proved right in suspecting that the disaster of the chapel boded ill. After his own death, the pharaoh's son Psammetique III was only to reign for a few months before being beaten and killed at the battle of Peluse by the Persian Cambise. With his death, Egypt's independence also ended and there began a long period of barbarism, violence and atrocities. Cambise tore down the Egyptian temples, and ill-treated and murdered Egypt's priests and high officials.

The city of Sais — and with it the whole of Egypt — was to undergo several centuries of terror and oppression. Things improved briefly under the reign of Nectanebo I. But the glorious age of the pharaohs was coming to a close. The founding of the city of Alexandria in 332 marked the beginning of the Greco-Roman period, and for the town and the river port of Sais it meant the start of a period of decline from which it has yet to emerge. Soon, the city of Cleopatra was to eclipse not just Sais, but all the towns of the Egyptian hinterland.

Today, the village of Sa' el Hagar sleeps beneath the shadow of its minarets. Most of the houses — almost all of them low, brown-coloured and very modest — have been built around the ancient Sacred Lake, close to the former temples. "We know that many years ago, our town was very wealthy and important," said Aleia Mohammad, a local peasant. "We have been told that the old city stretched as far as the Nile, where there was a port. Ships came to us from far away, from overseas. But

now, that's all finished. Life goes on."

The young people who pass by the ancient ruins every day on their way home from school seem unimpressed by their town's glorious past. "I'm studying to be an accountant," said Samia, 16. "Tourism and ancient history — that's not for Sa' el Hagar. No-one ever comes here. There is nothing to see."

"Personally, I would like to see better care being taken of our monuments," said Fatma, 18. "I'm sure that if more excavations were carried out a great many beautiful things would come to light. And that would bring us tourists."

Seated next to an open sarcophagus, another relic of bygone times, an old man stares vacantly into space. Mahmoud, another custodian, makes a sign to indicate that the old man is slightly mad. "See him," says Mahmoud. "He thinks that sarcophagus belongs to him and he's waiting patiently to die so he can be laid to rest inside it."

Slightly further off is a gigantic head made out of granite and half-sunk into the ground. Its face is encrusted with mud. It has been years since any archaeologist visited. Police officer Mohammad El Said, whose days stretch out endlessly in front of him, is far from optimistic. "We have had excavations here, but they have never lasted long," he said. "Everything has stayed as the archaeologists left it."

The remains of a few clay houses from the Roman period and part of the wall of the sanctuary are the only things that have been tidied up. Of all Egypt's archaeological sites, Sais seems to be the most neglected. Is it the curse of the ill-fated chapel still wreaking vengeance after 2,500 years? — World News Link.



For the most part the glorious past of the town of Sais lays buried.

Confusion in store

By Jean-Claude Elias

The main operations a computer performs or allows the user to do on data can easily be divided in four categories: Entry, storage, processing and output.

If all of them are important, their importance takes a different dimension, depending on the type of work being done. For instance, speed of processing is vital in mathematical research and 'number crunching' as it is called by the specialists, for whom the quality of the output is less critical. Word processing, on the contrary, requires high quality and sophisticated output but can accept average speed CPUs (central processing units).

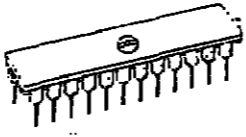
Permanent data storage is essential in all of the above categories. Whatever work you might be doing on your personal computer (PC), you need to save it in the best way. Permanent data storage on disks and tapes should be differentiated from temporary storage in the computer's central memory.

The industry is proposing a baffling choice of storage devices. As with audio-video, the consumer is left wondering what choice to make from a vast array of products and wishing there was a simple but good and clear standard for his or her needs.

In audio-video there is the good old regular vinyl LP disc, the popular single vinyl disc, the class 5" CD (Compact Disc), the baby 3" CD, the MiniDisc, the ubiquitous, poor man's music compact cassette, the sophisticated DAT (digital audio tape), the new DCC (Digital Compact Cassette), the agonising reel tape (many different sizes, speeds, ...), the VHS, the Beta tape, the Super VHS, the Hi-8 tape, and I'm sure I've forgotten some of them in this mini-directory. Needless to say that most of them are not inter-compatible, meaning a given media is designed for a specific machine and data can vary hardly or not at all, be exchanged between devices.

In data processing, the situation is... worse. Much worse. Though most users know only the internal, fixed hard disk and the floppy disks both 5.25" and 3.5" standards, the industry offers external, removable hard disks, magnetic disks, optical disks, 'floppy' disks — a combination of optical and magnetic techniques, applied to floppy drives,

chip talk



and an endless list of tape systems. Specialised computer magazines have compiled more than twenty different units. Again, the devices, except for a few, are not inter-compatible. Once you start using a certain type, you are stuck with it.

The back-up operation, for instance, consisting of making additional copies of your data, must be done on a practical device, usually a magnetic tape. The question is which one to use? Chances are the PC users you know all use different systems and each one will obviously recommend his.

Since no clear, winning standard has yet emerged, it would make sense to study the matter in a scientific, pragmatic way. The characteristics to consider for data storage are the speed, the reliability factor, the absolute capacity and the cost per MB (megabyte=million bytes). Streaming tapes are very cost-efficient but slow and unreliable. Optical re-writable disks, at the other extreme, can store huge amounts of data, are the most reliable but remain very expensive. Magnetic hard disks are until now those combining most of the qualities though at the edge of cost-effectiveness — they hold good amounts of data, are reliable, very fast, cheaper than optical disks but dearer than tapes.

The floptical, the newest addition to the family, is gaining ground. For medium size applications, it could prove to be the next de-facto standard for PC's. With accessible cost, excellent reliability, practicality (it's small and compatible with the 3.5" floppy), reasonable capacity — 21 MB and speed, it has all the characteristics of a winner.

Where do you go to my lovely?

By E. Yaghi

Sharook lived in a fancy apartment on the best side of town. She was encompassed by expensive paintings and habitually sat on satin cushions of King Louis 14 furniture and drank expensive ambrosia imported from Europe. In her dark hair she wore diamonds and pearls and around her neck, she wore chains of gold that glimmered against her pallid complexion. She had servants to obey her every command and she had everything money could buy but the most priceless commodity. One day a stranger appeared at her door and said to her: "I'm a kindred spirit from your past. Let me come in!"

She feigned indifference. "Who are you?" she demanded while inspecting his clothes. At a glance she determined that they were not of her social league and evidently not made in Paris or Rome. "Am I supposed to know you?" she asked.

Something about him seemed unrelenting and resolute and that she must not refuse his order so she held the door open and, "Better hurry up whatever you want. I'm exceedingly busy. I am going to the opera tonight! At any rate, let's go and sit down in the living room."

She led the way, he followed. They sat down opposite each other in a large room with crystal chandeliers. She caught his eyes studying her face, searching for something, felt the emotion in his voice. Then, "I've been watching you for a long time," he spoke slowly. "You are a friend of the rich and famous. You go to embassy parties and speak Russian and Greek. The young men who move in your circle hang on every word that you speak."

"What is it to you? Do I owe you an explanation for my life?"

She shifted her position and rang a bell. A servant appeared as if out of nowhere and in French she requested some tea, small cakes and sherbert. "And switch on the conditioning will you? It's much too hot!"

At once, a surge of cool air rushed into the room and blew the curtains away from the wall. They billowed like balloons filled with air. "Tell me," he spoke again. "Where do you go to my lovely, when you are all alone? Tell me the thoughts that surround you, for I want to look inside your head, yes I do." He didn't wait for an answer when she opened her mouth as if to say something, but continued: "I've seen all your qualifications you got from the Sorbonne."

He pointed to one of many pictures hanging on the wall, "and the painting you stole from Picasso. Your loveliness goes on and on, yes it does."

She grew red not being prepared for such scrutiny or wild accusations and stamped one foot on the Persian rug and yelled, "How dare you! Do you realise that with one command I can have you thrown out of my house? Who are you to come and make such insinuations?"

"Be patient my dear," he went on. "I know where you spend your summer vacations on the Riviera and when the

snow falls, you can be found on the Alps with others of your jet set. You sip Napoleon ambrosia but you never get your lips wet. Where do you go to my lovely, when you are all alone? Tell me the thoughts that surround you, I want to look inside your head."

"Can't you say something new? What is it to you where I spend my summers and winters and how is it that you know so much about me?"

She put her hand on her hair and with slim fingers bedecked with every kind of ring, she selected a strand and wound and unwound a soft curl again and again as if seeking comfort in something silky. The maid soon arrived with tea, cakes and sherbert. The young man took some tea but refused anything else.

"I would say that you're in between 20 and 30, a very nice age for a person as you. Your looks are very enchanting but you live on a glittering stage that might collapse at any moment. You deceive yourself, yes you do. Your name is heard in all the high places and you know a rich oil baron. Last year he sent you a race horse for your birthday and although you're not a good horsewoman, you keep it just for fun and a laugh."

He swallowed some tea, never taking his eyes off her. She sipped hers trying to see if her lips did really get wet or not. "Won't you have some sherbert or cakes?"

"No, not right now. I haven't finished yet. They say that when you get married it will be to a millionaire, but they don't realise where you came from and I wonder if they really care. Where do you go to my lovely when you're all alone? Tell me the thoughts that surround you. I want to look inside your head, yes I do."

She choked on a piece of cake, sipped some more tea and said in a fit of anger: "You keep repeating the same words as if you are my conscience or something. Who are you? What is it you want of me?"

Had he remained in the same position throughout all this interrogation? Why was he so set on knowing her secrets? There was something she couldn't quite put her finger on. She stared at him transfixed. He continued, apparently eager to finish his discourse. "I remember the back streets of Amman a long time ago. There were two little children begging in rags. I think you recall them too. They both had a burning ambition to make something of themselves and throw off their shame of being tagged scavengers and beggars. You have succeeded."

He rose now and walked towards her. She froze, and terrified, looked deep in his eyes for the first time as he demanded: "Yes, look into my face Sharook and remember just who you are. Then go and forget me forever but I know that you still bear the scars deep inside, yes you do!"

She flinched as if being struck through the heart by an arrow. She mustn't let him see the tears ready to fall. He concluded: "I know where you go to my lovely, when you are all alone in your house. I know all the thoughts that surround you because, don't forget, I can look inside your head!"

A desperate attempt

By Mohammad Al Faqeer

"The TV scene lasted less than two minutes. A tall young man, his head completely covered by a kofiyah, picked up a stone. He stopped just a few steps ahead of his teenage friends, extended his right arm to its full length and moved it around several times. Then, at last, he let the stone leave his hand in a short, violent journey. It flew towards the armoured vehicle which had just stopped in the middle of the swarm of youngsters who ran away in all directions as soon as they saw it approaching. The soldiers piled out of the car with their automatic weapons pointed at the kids with stones. The kids dropped their stones and fled. The soldiers chased after them, opened fire and soon there was smoke everywhere. It was impossible to see anything. The screen turned almost black. Suddenly the vehicle reappeared and the soldiers..."

"Stop, stop this minute!" my friend shouted, interrupting me as I was about to describe the scene of the soldiers arresting the tall young man with the kofiyah, the scene I saw on TV.

"Please, stop this nonsense of yours immediately, and never start it again with me," my friend went on. "Don't you realise that what you are talking about has become a commonplace scene we see every day on TV? Why on earth do you think you should talk about it to somebody

like me?"

"No, my friend," I replied. "I want not merely to talk, but to write about it."

"So? What difference does that make?" My friend coolly lit his cigarette. "What makes you think you should write about it? What can your writing do for the desperate people either in Gaza, the West Bank or anywhere else in the world? Don't you see babies, mothers and old people dying every day in Simalia? Haven't you seen hungry Somali toddlers pick grains of rice off the floor while their mothers die beside them? And what about Iraqi children, who die every day due to lack of food and medicine? What can you write about the Bosnians who have been killed in the past year, while the rest of the world was kept busy spouting out rhetoric about them? What can your words do for the South Africans murdered because they are black? Shall I go on? Look at the world. It is burning. It is horrible, my friend. What can your words do for the sufferings and plight of those desperate people? The horror prevailing in our world is just so much greater than the words we know."

"I agree with you," I replied. "My words will do nothing for the oppressed people. But in writing, I feel that I am associating myself with their pains and woes."

"My writing is just like their death-ended actions, a desperate attempt."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 1

8:00 Ted Close For Comfort

Henry decides to celebrate his marriage anniversary in a fancy hotel.

8:30 Quantum Leap

8:40 Help Me God

9:00 News In English

9:20 Feature Film — Presumed Guilty

Starring: Martin Sheen and Rebecca Schell.

Friday, July 2

8:30 Alf

Leaving My Baby

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

9:40 News In English

10:20 Peter The Great

Saturday, July 3

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Saturday Variety Show

10:00 News In English

10:30 Feature Film — Alamo

Starring: Ed Harris and Amy Madigan

A true story about a different war between the Americans and the Vietnamese on Texas shores in 1979.

Sunday, July 4

8:30 Step By Step

Frank decides to enter a football competition with the father of his daughter's friend.

9:10 Documentary — The Trials of Life

Natural History Of Behaviour

The episode sheds light on growth and behavioural patterns among mammals, including a lengthy and detailed talk about the seal.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, July 5

8:30 And Baby Makes Five

The Matchmakers

Eddy and his wife Jenny receive a guest at their house and are involved in finding a suitable date for her.

9:10 Thirtysomething



Martin Sheen stars in the film Presumed Guilty Thursday at 10:20

10:00 News In English

10:20 Street Justice

Debt Of Honour

Gary is arrested and charged with robbery but Eddy suspects conspiracy and decides to do everything he can to help him.

Tuesday, July 6

8:30 Comedy

9:00 Local Programme — Places And Faces

9:30 Wayne Dobson — A Kind Of Magic

You can spend half an hour of fun and entertainment

with Wayne Dobson in his kind of magic and professional eye-deceptive moves.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Battling For Baby

A young couple fall into a lot of confusion when they have a baby without planning for it.

Wednesday, July 7

8:30 Night Court

Paul, who works at the court, is very sad about the death of his colleague. A matter which drives him to act strangely during work.

9:10 The Story Of Hollywood

The Dream Factory
This episode talks about the glory of Hollywood in the thirties, despite the unemployment crisis during those years.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Harry's Game

Upon the assassination of a senior British security officer by the IRA, the British administration decides to send one of its officers called Harry to Belfast in Northern Ireland to investigate the case.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

— A Canadian trains fleas to practise circus games including walking on the wire, somersault and acrobatics.

— Everest Hotel which lies at an altitude of 13,000 ft above sea level serves oxygen together with the menus in return for payment.

— An American operated on her knee and was still unable to move it freely. Unexpectedly a bear attacked her. To save her life, she was compelled to run as fast as she could.

— So scarce was sugar in Europe that it became more precious than jewels and was, thereupon, accepted by queens as a wedding gift.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Common Phrases

— God be with you. Allah ma'ak.
— Let him come in. Khalil yadkhul.
— The blessing has entered. Hallet Al Baraka.
— I haven't seen you for ages. Min zaman mashuftak.
— You've left us in solitude. Wahashitna.
— May God not leave you desolate. Alah la yohshak.
— Please sit down and have a cup of coffee. Itaddal uk'ud wishrab finjan kahwa.

COOKING IS FUN

Cheesy Potato Hamburger

— 4-5 potatoes
— ¾ cup cheese, grated
— 2 egg yolks, beaten
— ½ tsp. baking powder
— flour
— breadcrumbs
— egg
— salt and pepper to taste

METHOD: Boil the potatoes. Peel and mash well, or put through a blender. Mix with cheese, egg yolks, baking powder, salt and pepper. Form into cutlets and roll in flour. Then roll in the egg, beaten with quarter cup water, and dip in breadcrumbs. Fry in hot ghee or oil until it becomes pale brown.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

BALLROOM — (Dancing with a dear friend) Marriage to him or her.
BANANAS — A piece of good luck coming.
BAND — (musical) A lucky speculation or business deal.
BAREFOOT — A successful speculation or bargain.
BARREL — (full) Money coming quickly.
BATH — Health and long life: (if dreamer is a young

girl) early marriage to present lover.

BEGGARS — To dream of beggars is a fortunate sign to lovers and businessmen.

BOUQUET — To receive one means much pleasure: To give one, constancy of a lover or friend.

BLOOD — To see blood means great riches, an inheritance.

HUMOUR

A man stood his little son on top of a wall and said, "Jump down, lkey, father will catch."

"No I'm afraid," said the boy.

"Don't be silly," his father said, "now come on, jump."

Well the boy jumped, his father made an attempt to catch him and he landed on his knees and burst out crying: "Father, you said you'd catch me and you didn't."

"My boy," replied his father. "I wanted to teach you to trust no one, not even your own father."

A lorry driver had been following a car driven by a woman somewhat erratically. At last both were halted by traffic lights and as the lorry drew alongside the car the driver saw that the woman had a large dog seated beside her. So he leaned out of his cab and said, "If I were you, I'd let the dog drive."

"Don't be silly," she retorted, "he hasn't passed his test."

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. A female blackbird isn't black. What colour is it?
2. What animal lives in a tree?
3. "Mrs" is an abbreviation of what?
4. What is felo-do-se?
5. What does the adjective "diaphanous" mean?
6. What are the Pulitzer Prizes awarded for?
7. What do 100 kopeks equal?
8. What is eutrophication?

PUZZLE IT OUT

What am I?

- Write the words to which the two clues in each line refer:
- a- Group of fish; a place for learning
 - b- A large assemblage; a religious ceremony
 - c- healthy; noise
 - d- Sewing implement; to heckle or tease
 - e- transparent; make a profit
 - f- a fruit; rendezvous
 - g- Japanese currency; desire or longing
 - h- Part of a plant; sheet of a book

At 48, Jacqueline Bisset still gets juicy roles



Jacqueline Bisset in the film *Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Don't expect veteran screen siren Jacqueline Bisset to complain that older actresses can't find juicy film roles.

Bisset, 48, says she hates hearing actresses complain that they can't get roles after 40.

"I keep hearing the same old refrain, so I'm not going to do it," Bisset said in a recent interview in San Francisco.

The refrain would seem to ring true for other actresses of Bisset's generation. Jane Fonda, Sophia Loren, and Candice Bergen have all receded as big-screen queens.

"I'm willing to travel," said Bisset, who appeared trim in a tight-fitting matching grey

skirt and jacket. The implication was that perhaps European filmmakers are less youth-obsessed than their American counterparts.

With three new films either already out or soon to come out, Bisset is certainly still in demand.

In *Crimebroker*, the British-born film star plays a magistrate who moonlights as a criminal. The film, which opened recently in Japan, also stars Japanese actor Masaya Kato.

"It was very interesting working with a Japanese actor," she told Reuters. "And it was fun for me because I got to play all sorts of different things."

The French production *Les*

Marmottes is an ensemble piece about a group of a dozen friends and relatives holed up in a hotel in France one weekend.

"Marmottes are little brown hairy animals that snuggle up in the winter," said Bisset, who ran a brush through her frizzy reddish-brown hair right before the interview. "That's the image, that we're all in this hotel going through our dramas."

Bisset most recently completed filming on Hoffman's *Hunger*, in which she plays the wife of a troubled diplomat portrayed by Elliot Gould.

The title refers to the Gould character's desire for food and drink, to which he

has turned in times of emotional turmoil. The film ends in Prague in 1989, before the Velvet Revolution.

None of the three films has blockbuster written all over it, and Bisset seems to like it that way.

"I used to do very big, commercial-type films, and I didn't get the satisfaction from them that I get from more independent sorts of pieces," she said.

It was the independent, quirky 1988 film *Scenes From The Class Struggle In Beverly Hills* in which Bisset scored one of her most recent critical successes. She played a former TV star at the centre of a wild weekend of sexual escapades at a Beverly Hills mansion.

Bisset, who now lives in Los Angeles, was born Jacqueline Fraser-Bisset in Weybridge, Surrey, England. Her Scottish father was a doctor and her mother a lawyer of French and English descent.

Modelling assignments led to small parts in features such as *The Knack* in 1965 and *Arrivererci Baby*, starring Tony Curtis in 1966.

The 1967 James Bond spoof, *Casino Royale* gave Bisset her first major break and she went on to star in numerous critical or box-office successes including *Airport*, *Under The Volcano*, *The Deep*, *Wild Orchid* and *Anna Karenina*, a TV movie.

She is equally at home in American and European movies and has appeared in French and Italian productions such as Francois Truffaut's 1972 movie *Day For Night*, which won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

"I'm trying to find things that I can do more uniquely than maybe somebody else can do, because I have a certain quality," said Bisset, who was in San Francisco for a National Cable Television Association convention.

"I've always tried to find things I haven't done. There has to be some kind of challenge in there for me," she said.

Italian props house sells movie memories at a discount

By Samantha Conti
Reuters

ROME — Hard times caught up with Italy's film industry this month when the country's biggest supplier of movie props began auctioning off 10,000 items, many of them mementoes of Rome's cinematic past.

Desks where monks read forbidden books in *The Name Of The Rose* and the golden mirror reflecting the Rocco ballroom in *The Leopard* were snapped up.

For some, the auction means a tragic loss of the

country's cinematic heritage, but for the buyers and sellers it's just another business deal.

"This was a necessary move for us. We weren't getting any work," said Mario Garbuglia, a set designer and owner of the props supplier Dedalo, next door to Italy's Hollywood — Cinecitta.

"We only made six million lire (\$4,000) in the past year. For the most part, movie-making in Italy has stopped. Dedalo was like a store where no one shopped," he

said.

Apart from making fewer films, Italy's directors often prefer to film on location which is often less expensive than shooting in a studio.

Many in the Italian cinema world are angry about the sale, saying the government should have stepped in to buy the most important pieces, like the ballroom furniture eventually sold to a private buyer for a mere 22 million lire (\$15,000).

"I think it's myopic on the part of the state to allow this loss," said Lina Wertmuller, director of *The Seven*

Beauties (1976) and *Sweet Away* (1974).

"The state should step in, but it appears no one is interested in saving the cinema."

A spokeswoman for the Culture Ministry admitted the state chose not to exercise its right to block the final sale of any of the items auctioned.

"We didn't think anything there was unique or irreplaceable," she told Reuters.

Antonio De Crescenzo, the chief auctioneer, said he received calls from angry actors and directors asking

him not to go through with the auction.

"But when the time came," he said, "none of those who had complained even attended or made any bids. Very few people from the cinema world have attended so far."

Besides the desks from *The Name Of The Rose*, made in 1986 and based on the book by Umberto Eco, and ballroom furniture from Luchino Visconti's 1963 film *The Leopard* from Giuseppe Di Lampedusa's book, coffins, typewriters, and suits of armour have been selling

quickly at prices as low as 20,000 lire (\$14).

Those who have been buying are a mixed crowd, and not necessarily cinema fans. They range from collectors of religious articles, to architects in search of inexpensive models and mothers buying dowerware for their daughters.

They sit, squirming in their seats and fanning themselves in Dedalo's boiling warehouse, bidding on golden tabernacles, chairs with Nazi symbols emblazoned on the back, and large wooden

bookcases complete with styrofoam books.

"Our whole house is decorated with religious articles. We're crazy about them," said two men who left with a large silver crucifix, a priest's vestments and a statue of the Madonna.

A woman who had just bought crystal ashtrays for her daughter said the prices were unbeatable. "It's like fishing for bargains," she said. "The prices here are so low — I've become addicted to the bidding."

Garbuglia, who worked

with Visconti between 1956 and 1971, said he did not regard the sale as a tragedy.

"Times are changing. I feel more sorry for all of the cinema craftsmen who are out of work because of the decline in studio shooting."

De Crescenzo said the government should have stepped in to acquire some of the items.

"They should have at least been concerned with a few of the items being sold. Sometimes, they just don't do what they should," he said.

After the spaghetti western, try the vodka variety

By Paola Messina
Agence France Presse

GOLITSINO, Russia — Some two decades ago the Italians invented the "spaghetti western", complete with scowling bandits, stylish shoot-outs and bestubled heroes.

In 1993, the post-Communist Russian film industry is finally coming of age, with its own version of the classic U.S. film genre.

The Russian-Italian co-producers of what could be the first example of the "vodka western" have picked an unlikely location for their movie — the Taman military base 40 kilometres west of Moscow.

A wigwag village set back from a parade ground is one of the first signals to new

arrivals that this is not a Russian Red Indians, are perhaps an equally unexpected sight.

In fact most of the locally-hired extras, chosen for their resemblance to traditional Indians, are ethnic Mongols, and almost all are either employees, diplomat's wives or children from the Mongolian embassy in the Russian capital.

"What with Tajiks, Kirghiz, Mongols and other Asian types, we find extras with Indian features more easily than in the United States," says Floyd Westerman, famous since the Kevin Costner film *Dance With The Wolves*.

Westerners co-starring in the movie — working title *Jonathan Of The Bears* —

say it could be done for less than \$2 million.

The eccentricities of the locals are among them. "We never know if the bus will be there, if the driver will be drunk. Russians don't have any discipline, and above all they have no sense of time," says Nero.

Still other problems abound. A few days ago a film crew was forced to abandon a night-time shoot after running out of fuel, while construction of a cowboy village has been suspended for lack of wood.

Four weeks of torrential rain, and the constant irritation of clouds of mosquitos.

But if the producers and financiers of the film have their problems, there are others who are not complain-

ing — least of all the extras, who are being paid the princely sum of 7,000 rubles (\$7) per day.

For some of the actors too, the experience is proving a profitable one. Clive Riche, says he is "relaxing in the atmosphere and living a kind of spiritual experience."

The Indian heroine of the film, the 20-year-old South African actress Melody Robertson, who has had to dye her hair black and wear dark contact lenses, is also more than happy to be here.

"I could never have imagined that becoming an actress would mean finding myself dressed up as an Indian in the middle of a military base in Russia," she says with a wide smile.

Like sand through his fingers

NEW YORK (AP) — With a 16mm camera and a crew consisting only of herself, Agnes Varda three summers ago began shooting footage around the house and by the ocean of her husband and fellow director, Jacques Demy.

She was making *Jacquot*, a dramatisation of his early years that includes his on-screen recollections and scenes from *The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg* and his other films.

The gentle master of French musicals had been jotting down childhood stories and Varda thought them an ideal basis for their first professional collaboration.

But there was a reason her husband had been thinking about the past and a reason Varda wanted privacy while he discussed it: Two years earlier, Demy had been diagnosed with leukemia. Despite optimism he would live

to see the finished work, he died in the fall of 1990, at age 59. Demy was born in 1931 in the village of Pontchaillou, west of Nantes, where his father owned a garage and where much of *Jacquot* was shot. He later studied at the Technical College of Fine Arts in Nantes and at the Technical School of Photography in Paris.

As Varda's film makes clear, this dark-eyed boy with the beret and skinny legs had a sense of wonder stronger than any Luftwaffe bomb. His hands were darkened by cars at the garage and from the inner tubes he rolled through the streets. But his mind was brightened by puppets and music and movies.

Three young actors are used to play Demy as he evolves from a smiling child to a moody adolescent. By the end of the film, he has lost interest in school, the

garage and even his girlfriend. His real love is a 9.5mm camera "acquired in exchange for five children's books and a No. 4 erector set."

"That's what makes me feel he was an original kid," Varda said. "I really believe that it is rare to be so sure that he is able to do this. He could have said, 'I'll never succeed,' or 'I don't have the background,' or 'my family's poor.'"

"He was so open, so easy as a child and as an adolescent he became withdrawn, solitary. He was fighting in his own little corner, and he remained that way, Jacques. He would fight with himself."

Periodically, a still of a hand pointing will flash on the screen and *Jacquot* will jump from the black and white on Demy's childhood to the (mostly) candy-coloured world of Demy's films.

Vasarely's optical illusions at centre of legal row

By Penelope Hocking-Vigie
Reuters

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France — Victor Vasarely, whose paintings of optical illusions revolutionised modern art in the 1960s, is at the centre of a fierce legal battle over the control of his works.

The entourage of the Hungarian-born champion of the "op art" movement trade charges of sequestration, mistreatment, theft and forgery.

The dispute, similar to that which surrounded the last years of Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali, involves huge

sums of money, since Vasarely paintings fetch 150,000 to one million francs (\$27,700 to \$185,000).

The main protagonists are Michele Vasarely, the artist's daughter-in-law, and Charles Debbasch, former dean of law at Aix-En-Provence University, which for 12 years administered the Vasarely Foundation under the auspices of the French Culture and Interior Ministries.

A court ousted Mr. Debbasch in April for failing to respect the foundation's statutes.

He immediately called a

news conference at the massive square black-and-white Vasarely Museum which dominates the skyline on the western edge of Aix-En-Provence.

He accused Michele Vasarely of keeping the 85-year-old painter in isolation, filtering his telephone calls, cutting off his central heating, restricting his food and producing thousands of works falsely attributed to the artist.

"The boot is on the other foot," countered Michele Vasarely, who took over the painter's affairs after the death of his wife three years

ago.

"I found that my father-in-law was completely dominated by the people who were supposed to look after him," she told Reuters.

"He was living in squalor. They had taken nearly everything he had, so I sacked them and they teamed up with Debbasch to tell lies," she said.

"Art dealers tipped me off about bizarre transactions carried out by Debbasch, who as president of the foundation was responsible for promoting and selling Vasarely's output. When I

began to look at the files, I didn't want to believe my eyes."

The Vasarelys accuse Mr. Debbasch of paying into a Swiss bank account \$300,000 from sales in the United States, as well as other fraudulent activities including the disappearance of 80 works entrusted to the foundation.

The dispute has taken on political overtones which could embarrass the two partners in France's ruling centre-right coalition, the French Union for Democracy (UDF) and the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR).

Mr. Debbasch was once an adviser to UDF leader and former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Victor Vasarely was a friend of the late Gaullist President Georges Pompidou.

Lawyer Jean-Marc Varaut told the court in Aix-En-Provence he was under pressure to stop defending the Vasarely family.

"It comes from the top brass of the UDF," Mrs. Vasarely said. "People are beginning to wonder why they are so anxious to protect him."

She said she was counting

on RPR support to conduct an enquiry into the foundation's operations.

At his home in Annet-sur-Marne, near Paris, Vasarely continues to work.

Journalists who visited him recently found him lucid and full of humour, though he now has difficulty moving about.

He remains detached from the legal storm raging around him, commenting simply that he is "disappointed."

He paints small canvases or "programmes," the huge geometric designs for which he is famous. Vasarely traces

the outlines, leaving his assistants to fill in the spaces according to numbered colour-codes he sets down.

After moving to France from Hungary in 1931, Vasarely turned his talent to sculpture, tapestry and architecture as well as painting. From 1955 he began to explore the use of geometric lines where a sense of movement is created when the observer moves in front of the picture.

This month Japan will honour him with a year-long retrospective exhibition in six national galleries.

Money problems cloud opening of new Finnish opera house

By Fredrik Dahl
Reuters

HELSINKI — Finland's first purpose-built opera house will be completed this year but pride in the country's latest cultural achievement has been clouded by money problems.

The Finnish National Opera — based in a former Russian garrison theatre since just after Finland became independent in 1917 — will have to lay off staff for three weeks this summer to make ends meet.

To perform in the new

specially constructed building, the opera has taken on extra members of the orchestra and chorus, pushing up its annual financial needs by 10-15 million markka (\$1.84-\$2.75 million to roughly 160 million (\$29.4 million), most of which is paid by the state.

"This house demands a larger staff. We're only asking for the prerequisites to work in this house," said Walton Gronroos, the head of the new opera house, where the National Ballet will also work.

Asked what would happen if the opera didn't get enough

money for next year, he told Reuters: "Then we would have to close...we cannot have a limping operation in this house."

Already under pressure to reduce spending, the Ministry of Education and Culture is having a difficult time finding the money, though it is quite vocal in its support.

"I'm pretty optimistic that this will be solved in a productive way," said Irmeli Nieminen, director general at the ministry, which this year contributed 125 million markka (\$22.7 million).

In Finland, an opera ticket

— to cost up to 180 markka (\$33) in the new building — is heavily subsidised in line with the state's ambition to make it possible for all people to enjoy it.

The construction of the 740 million markka (\$135.8 million) opera house started in 1986, at a time when the economy was still in good shape. Criticism of the costly building grew in line with the rapidly deteriorating economy.

Mr. Gronroos believes the criticism will pass with time.

"I hope this house will

stand after 200 years...this is an investment in the real long term," he said.

Despite the present financial concerns, the National Opera and the National Ballet are full of enthusiasm for the new building.

"For the first time in Finland's history we will have the possibility to perform opera and ballet in the right way. We've never really had an opera house in this country," Mr. Gronroos said.

With its light colours and large panoramic windows which overlook the Helsinki waterfront, the building is far

from an ordinary opera house and its exterior — likened by some to a modern office complex — has aroused controversy.

The main auditorium, in a traditional horseshoe design, can seat 1,385 people — almost three times the capacity of the present 19th century Alexander's Theatre.

Much of the interior is below ground level.

Staff will be able to work, rehearse and perform in just one building instead of in several different locations.

The new opera house will

also do justice to the relative popularity of opera and ballet in Finland, which, with a population of five million, has produced several renowned composers, conductors, singers and musicians.

Lovers of opera and classical music come here every summer to enjoy the numerous festivals, the most famous of which is Savonlinna where opera is performed every July in a mediaeval castle on an island in eastern Finland.

"This tradition is not long, but it is strong," said Mr. Gronroos. The National

Opera was founded as late as in 1911. "The audience figures also show that we need this form of art."

The new building will be officially inaugurated in November with a performance of a specially commissioned opera by Aulis Salonen.

The first opera to be performed there — Verdi's *La Traviata* — is scheduled for Sept. 30.

"The opera house is a tremendous success," Mr. Gronroos said. "It is a work of art and a work of art which is well suited to its purpose."

On the cutting edge — a brain surgeon for kids

By Paula Sands

NEW YORK (WNL) — Dr. Fred Epstein's specialty is removing children on whom other doctors have given up because the surgery they need is too delicate, too dangerous. Director of pediatric neurosurgery at the New York University Medical Centre (NYC), Dr. Epstein operates on brain stem and spinal cord tumours, a leading cause of death among young children.

"Children weren't meant to die of tumours, and when they do, it is commonly quite different — by location, by how they look under the microscope — from what we see in the adult population," he explained in an interview. "Most of the tumours children get are in somewhat different areas, often in the back of the head in the area called the brain stem, and in the spinal cord. We have learned over the last few years that we can go in and remove many," he continued. "But the techniques are somewhat different. The operations are quite delicate — usually between five and eight hours long."

According to Dr. Epstein, the positive factor working in favour of young patients is that many of the tumours diagnosed are not cancerous. If the surgery is successful, chances are the problem will

not occur again. "In recent years, with the explosion of technology and the capability of microscopes and everything else, we have had a lot more success in terms of what we are able to do. We are able to go into areas of the brain and spinal cord that we never thought would be possible just a few years ago."

Approximately 700 operations a year are provided by the New York University Medical Centre, about 250 of them on brain tumours. "Tumours all look different under the microscope," Dr. Epstein explained. He does about 150 complicated brain stem and spinal cord operations a year, at the rate of about three or four every week. "Most of the brain tumours that occur in children actually come from the brain or the spinal cord and are referred to as astrocytomas. That is the most common type of tumour; there are others that are malignant that also occur."

If there are no complications, the capacity of children to recover is remarkable. "It's one of the reasons I like pediatrics. They can get better in five or six days. Sometimes they require extensive physical therapy and it can take three months. It is quite variable." He says the only yardstick of success is curing

a tumour and having the young patient lead a normal life. "That's success. Do we achieve it always? No, but that is what you want," Dr. Epstein estimates that his success rate is about 70 per cent.

"I find it exciting to do something that there aren't a lot of people doing," he said. "I like being in the forefront. I like pushing the horizons of our experience. I like finding a new way to tackle something that didn't seem resolvable." Dr. Epstein attempts operations other doctors turn away. "Sometimes after the operation, I understand why they wouldn't." Why does he do it? "Because I always think I can. I'm always convinced I can. I think surgeons have to have a certain arrogance in the sense that you believe you are the best person at the best place at the right time. You go into it like war, not thinking 'maybe I'll win or maybe I'll lose' — or you'll lose. You go into it thinking, 'I can do it.'"

Doctors have a mandate with children to accept a greater hazard because what they do will affect their whole life, not just add a few months to the life of a sick patient. "Families want you to take a greater hazard," he said, admitting that it's all very frightening. "I've got to tell you that in the operating room, although we act calm, your heart is in your mouth the whole time because the families have given you the biggest responsibility a parent can give anyone — they've entrusted you with the life of their child."

Dr. Epstein and his team operate on non-cancerous tumours. "Sometimes I get calls from people who say 'can you help?' and with cancerous tumours, you really can't do much most of the time." Although most of the tumours that occur in children are not cancerous, if not operated on, the children die. "Before we developed these techniques, many of the children were succumbing. We

have learned that we can do it, and it works out well in many of the cases."

High cost of surgery

Like many other expenses associated with health care, the cost of the surgery is high. "It's hard to say exactly how much it costs," Dr. Epstein said. "Probably the entire cost, including the hospitalisation and everything else is between \$35,000 and \$45,000."

Pediatric neurosurgery, one of the newer subspecialties, has about 75 surgeons across the U.S. who are competent in the technique. "I like to think that I have helped to expand the field and introduced techniques that others are using for some tumours, making things treatable now that weren't just a few years ago," Dr. Epstein said. To share his experience with other professionals and lay persons, he is organising a three-day conference in New York in December.

Gifts Of Time, his recently released book on brain surgery for children, is written for the general public. "The world we live in here is not a real world — it's the world of children who are critically ill with life-threatening problems," Dr. Epstein explained. "No one knows that this world exists. I wanted to write something to make people who will never know this world understand what it is like. And I thought it was something that would be of support to families during these terrible times."

Like many children's physicians Dr. Epstein, who has five children of his own, is attached to his patients. "I think we all have the same feelings about children. All of us are committed to their well-being. One of the things that got me involved in brain surgery for children is that I got very interested in the spectrum of problems that children have because they are different."

"When we operate on a child who is two or three years old, we are operating on a nervous system that is

still developing. In an adult, what you want to do is go in and take out the tumour. You want to do that in a child, too, but you want to do it in a way that doesn't interfere with the normal, continuing development of the brain. You are operating on something that is dynamic and still developing, that is not embryologically complete." The radiation treatment often used on adults kills cells that are multiplying but, because a child's brain is still growing, "we try desperately hard not to give radiation to children," he added.

Some of his patients come from far away. About 20 per cent come from other parts of the U.S. or from foreign countries. "I operated on a patient from Spain recently," Dr. Epstein noted. "Last week I operated on someone from Yemen. I have a child coming in from India in the next two weeks."

He explained that his type of work has not become commonplace, even in Western Europe, and in the developing world the technology and know-how are simply not available. Having previously served as president of the societies associated with his field, including the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons and the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons, Dr. Epstein travels abroad regularly to lecture on pediatric neurosurgery. "I'll be heading off to France shortly and I'll be in Hong Kong in July to give a series of talks. I was in India in November and Greece in October."

Medical considerations are different depending on where you live. In India, Dr. Epstein recalled, people from the audience pointed out that he was talking about MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans and other sophisticated equipment that were not readily available. "Tell us how we can diagnose this (tumours) with a skull X-ray, how we can diagnose it with a CAT scan. There are only three MRIs in India," people pointed out. Later I said we

shouldn't operate on a certain type of tumour, and somebody in the audience said, 'How would you treat it?' I said 'with chemotherapy,' but he said, 'in this country half of the things that look like this are tuberculomas from tuberculosis.'

Dr. Epstein stresses that parents should always take their children to a child care specialist, whether it involves brain tumours or other illnesses. "If a child has a threatening illness, a family will take that child anywhere on the face of the earth to get the best care for their child... It's absolutely critical that he or she be taken care of by a physician who specialises in that sort of illness in children." The question families must ask their physician is, are you a specialist in pediatrics in that particular area? "If he says yes," Dr. Epstein added, "chances are 70 per cent they're in the right hands. If the physician also expresses special care for children, then chances are 90 per cent they're in the right hands."

Malpractice suits

Asked whether he was worried about malpractice suits, considering how dangerous each intervention is, he shrugged it off. "It's like saying to a boxer, 'are you afraid of getting hurt in the ring?' You can't practice defensive medicine. You just have to do what you think is right and hope things will work out. I told a family today, it's a terribly delicate area and there's a 5 per cent chance that a serious injury could result from surgery." Families are elated that their child has a chance to live, Dr. Epstein said. However, of the 700 operations a year performed at the centre, that leaves 35 times when things may not work out. "Families say then, what went wrong? Nothing went wrong. We talked about it before, but they don't understand that."

Sometimes a family will feel better if it seeks a second opinion. "I have no problem with second opinions — you are not God... So often



Dr. Fred Epstein has won recognition for the field of pediatric neurosurgery

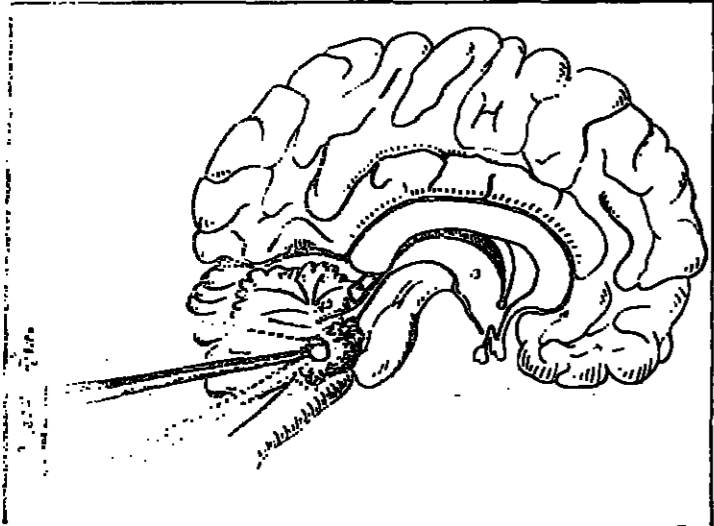
families are afraid of offending the physician. Anyone who's a class act is not in the least going to be turned off. And these are such major decisions. They really have to feel comfortable."

The bottom line, he says, is that all our lives revolve around our children. "It is an entirely different spectrum of problems, and it is one where I think we can achieve things. It is something that is evolving and unfolding — a new area, a new horizon."

"If I did one thing, it is to make people aware that when a child has a threatening problem it must be a specialist in children's problems that takes care of that child. Developing the field of pediatric neurosurgery has been very important to me. Until recently it had not been accepted as a bona fide subspecialty," Dr. Epstein describes brain tumours in children as the second most threatening illness that occurs in childhood, after leukemia. "My greatest feeling is that I developed a specialty, made it recognised as something to be accepted and have crossed the bounds of neurosurgery to other specialties. What will happen in

pediatric neurosurgery in the next 10 to 15 years? Incredible things, says Dr. Epstein. "I would never have guessed 10 years ago that we would be where we are now." He says new techniques will be developed so that surgeons can operate on things that do not appear to be operable today. There will be many different ways of treating tumours. "I suspect that we are going to learn how to use the body's own immune system to recognise tumours and destroy them," he explained. "I think this will be one major development. And I think we are going to have all sorts of imaging systems that will enable us to see things before surgery that we cannot see now."

"Experimental work in using the body's immune system to fight tumours is going on now," Dr. Epstein said. "Surgery is an admission of defeat in the treatment of tumours. 'You don't know what caused it, so you try and cut it out. We're going to start to understand more about what causes them, and we'll be able to get to the basics and treat them more effectively' — World News Link.



Removal of a brain stem tumour being removed with an instrument designed by Dr. Fred Epstein and named Ferrari.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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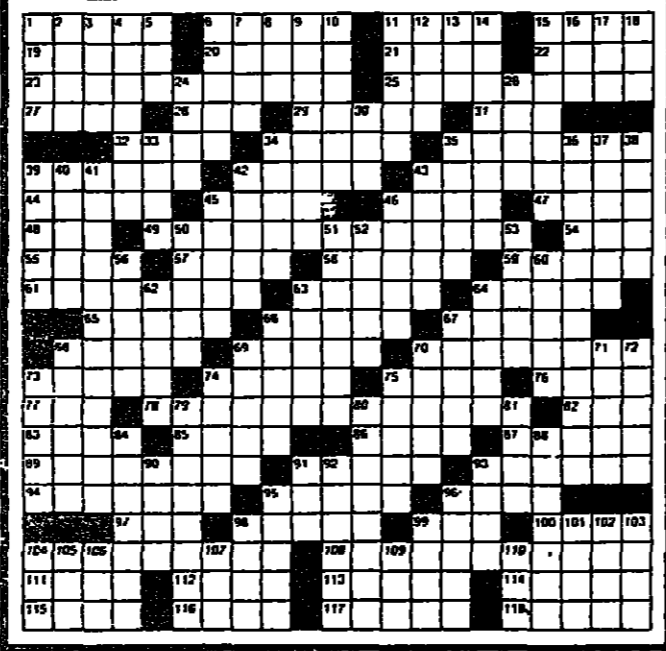
40. In a way

41. In a way

42. In a way

43. In a way

44. In a way



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Famous line from farmer decides on branching out to high-priced... (10 letters)
2. When unstable vegetable addict saw the word "schottische" in his... (10 letters)
3. "A line at last!" giddy morticians yelled after morticians finally agreed to a deal. (10 letters)
4. Happy news reporter in well-known for his skill at flashy repartee. (10 letters)

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. RX TJM BJOC AKO TJMWNVFX LYVHV
WVGWYVW CXJZ TJM GHDV NJGVYJBT
VFNV ZHLT AXJ BRH. —By Gordon Miller

2. IROU IDU EXI HOKKOZK HUMOR WEPK
MENN KGO MEPR KGO MEPR UKKOP
MENOW KGO HOKKOZ. —By Duane H. McGee

3. EQISNZIAC XPLR SINNG TAGXMOG PN I
EQIZQZ ORT "Q" OPERA. —By Barbara J. Ruff

4. IK PHAUNT SIDIRHIO SEFUT, TERU
DISHOUT TUNAU FISHFISH TOP FTH
KIHT. —By Eugene T. Malachuk

5. Word in
6. Make confuses
7. Lade
8. Sudden fear
9. Place in Asia
10. Contemplative
11. Branch
12. Concerning
13. Met oath

14. Word in
15. Make confuses
16. Lade
17. Sudden fear
18. Place in Asia
19. Contemplative
20. Branch
21. Concerning
22. Met oath

23. Word in
24. Make confuses
25. Lade
26. Sudden fear
27. Place in Asia
28. Contemplative
29. Branch
30. Concerning
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32. Word in
33. Make confuses
34. Lade
35. Sudden fear
36. Place in Asia
37. Contemplative
38. Branch
39. Concerning
40. Met oath

41. Word in
42. Make confuses
43. Lade
44. Sudden fear
45. Place in Asia
46. Contemplative
47. Branch
48. Concerning
49. Met oath

Sunblock controversy? Dermatologists say use it

By Andrew Stern
Reuter

CHICAGO — Should a healthy-minded person drink? (Only in moderation). Smoke? (Clearly no). Eat out? (It can't hurt). Stay out of the sun forever? (What?)

Yet another health debate has broken out with the subject this time — does sunblock really protect us?

Dermatologists are loathe to say any tan is safe. A tan is the body's response to the sun's injurious ultra-violet rays in which it releases a darkening pigment in the upper layer of skin to protect it.

But two epidemiologist brothers from the University of San Diego, Cedric and Frank Garland, have added more fuel to the fire by raising disturbing arguments that sunblock gives sun worshippers a false sense of security.

A Harvard University medical journal and various national magazines have publicised the Garlands' views, which argue that a surge in melanomas, the most dangerous form of skin cancer distinguishable by its multi-coloured blotches, has coincided with the advent of sunblock use.

The Garlands say sunblocks prevent the body's natural defence, a tan, from forming. They say the chemical creams screen out only a portion of the ultra-violet light spectrum that causes skin cells to mutate and become cancerous. And they say sunblocks may prevent the formation of Vitamin D needed for a healthy dermis.

Most dermatologists decry the Garlands' arguments as unscientific and irresponsible.

"They've been playing this game for four or five years,

They've never done a study and the things that are printed are really editorials," said Darrell Rigel, a dermatologist and an expert on skin cancer at New York University Medical School.

The risk of melanoma correlates with the number of sunburns one has suffered over a lifetime, not those suffered in the last year or two, dermatologists say.

"Skin cancer is a serious thing. One American an hour dies," Dr. Rigel said in a telephone interview.

"Melanoma is increasing faster than any other cancer worldwide. The U.S. rate doubled in the 1980s and there will be 32,000 cases this year. It's a clear-cut case where early treatment is the key," he said.

Questions over sunblock use are being raised just as summer arrives in the northern hemisphere. And scientists warn that protection from the sun is needed more than ever because the Earth's protective ozone layer is thinning.

In the United States alone this year, there will be 700,000 new cases of the three types of skin cancers — basal cell, squamous cell and melanoma.

The last, melanoma, metastasizes in the body quicker and is expected to kill 6,800 Americans this year, mostly men aged over 50. Skin cancer is also a very serious problem in Australia, and the number of cases is rising rapidly in New Zealand, Sweden and Israel.

Ruth Sykes, of the American Academy of Dermatology, says the group rejects the Garlands' views and urges sun lovers — especially pale, sun-starved office workers — to use sunblock and to wear hats when out in the sun. Dermatologists also wish

people would quit climbing into artificial tanning beds.

"Skin cancers are caused by sudden bursts of sunlight that cause bad sunburns, especially in childhood and adolescence. In fact, 25 per cent of skin cancer victims are in their childbearing years," Dr. Sykes said.

The Garland brothers are busy studying breast and colon cancer and do not give interviews about the subject of skin cancer or the criticism they have received, an assistant said.

But medical ethicists, though unfamiliar with the Garlands' work, said contrary opinions are not unusual in the unscientific public arena where the truth of what is, or is not, healthy, can be a matter of conjecture.

Previous health debates — some still unresolved — surrounded the whooping cough vaccine, the apple additive Alar, the anti-depressant drug Prozac, and whether or not metal fillings in tooth cavities poison us with mercury.

In the case of whooping cough vaccine, false rumours that it would cause brain damage in many children caused some British parents to leave their children unvaccinated, and 50 died one year, Arthur Caplan of the University of Minnesota said.

"Scientists do have an obligation (to reveal all they know). The question is, do you drive the American public nuts by giving them too much to worry about in every controversy?" Dr. Caplan said.

SOLUTIONS

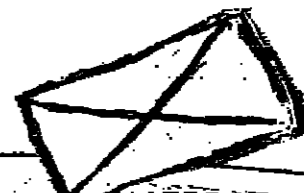
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Brown.
2. The squirrel.
3. Mistress.
4. A suicide.
5. Transparent.
6. Journalism.
7. I rouble (Russia)
8. The over-development of plant life in streams or lakes.

☆☆☆☆

PUZZLE IT OUT

- a. SCHOOL
- b. MASS
- c. SOUND
- d. NEEDLE
- e. CLEAR
- f. DATE
- g. YEN
- h. LEAF



Recession affects illegal aliens

By Michael Otten
Reuters

SACRAMENTO — California's severe recession is causing a backlash against illegal immigrants, prompting conservative state lawmakers to propose a series of bills to crack down on them.

Some feel that illegal immigrants' use of state services is putting an added strain on California's revenues at a time of economic stagnation, high unemployment and yawning budget deficits.

Thirty-five immigration-related bills have been proposed in the legislature in the current session, most of them directed at cutting off or reducing services to illegal immigrants.

Liberals hit back by accusing conservatives of immigrant-bashing. A number of the bills have been defeated in committee by the democratic majority, but others are still making their way through the legislature.

"As long as it is beneficial to come here, they will come here," assemblyman Richard Mountjoy said, referring to illegal immigrants. "I don't care how big a fence you put up at the border to keep them out, they will find a way."

Mr. Mountjoy, a Republican, is pushing a series of bills that would cut off education funds to illegal aliens, bar them from acquiring health care provide to report them to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS).

"The legal immigrants are not the problem," said Mr. Mountjoy. "They are getting into the mainstream and paying their way...about the only taxes the illegals pay are sales taxes and lottery tickets."

Despite its hard economic times, California is still a magnet for immigrants from other countries.

A record 403,000 foreign immigrants poured into the state last year, including an estimated 100,000 illegals.

While many of the immigrants come from Latin America, a spate of smuggling of illegal Chinese immigrants has caused alarm among the public and state politicians.

Nearly 500 illegal Chinese immigrants have been detained in California in the last two weeks, prompting Governor Pete Wilson to urge President Clinton to take swift action to combat smuggling.

In New York a boatload of 271 Chinese refugees being smuggled in were arrested this week after their ship beached off Manhattan. Six of the refugees were killed and five escaped.

Mr. Wilson has asked the federal government for \$1.5 billion to help California meet the estimated \$5 billion cost of paying social, health and prison costs of immigrants.

The state auditor-general last year estimated that the state's 1.3 million illegal aliens were costing state and local governments some \$3 billion a year.

The state estimates that nearly 21,000 undocumented residents are locked up in state prisons and local jails at an annual cost of more than 20,000 each.

Assemblyman Mickey Conroy, a Republican from Orange County, has proposed a bill that would require the state to study the feasibility of building a special prison in Mexico run by Mexican authorities to house some of the nearly 12,000 undocumented immigrants jailed in the state for felony crimes.

Other Conroy measures would make it a crime to live unlawfully in California and would bar illegal immigrants from attending state colleges and universities.

In a climate where state and local governments are making drastic cuts to balance their budgets, it is easy for immigrants to be singled out as scapegoats.

One Republican lawmaker, assemblyman Pete Knight, was forced to apologise last month for distributing an "I love America" poem about the supposed easy life of an immigrant.

The verse, which Mr. Knight said had been sent to him by a constituent, starts out with: "I come for visit, get treated regal, so I stay, who care illegal?"

Assemblyman Richard Polanco of Los Angeles was among those taking offence, saying the poem was just one of "numerous examples of immigrant-bashing" going on in the Capitol.

Mr. Polanco, the third-ranking Democrat in the assembly and chairman of the Latino caucus, has led a successful fight so far to block anti-immigrant measures.

At the same time, he is pushing a bill that would establish citizenship centres at a cost of \$30 million to help some 5.2 million legal immigrants become citizens.

Jordan demands evenhanded U.N. stand

(Continued from page 1)

destruction of their republic and its disappearance from the international map. The United Nations will then become a witness to death and extinction rather than a protector of life and survival. Why has the situation reached this tragic and dangerous level? There are many different interpretations of this. Some are public, others are hidden.

Numerous as they are, the public arguments boil down to the fact that influential and powerful countries, as is well known to everybody, have seen fit to deal with the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina within a framework of their financial calculations and perceived interests, completely ignoring ethical, moral and legal responsibilities as well as all the big slogans they raise here at the United Nations to lay down the foundations of a world in which security and freedom prevail and in which nations pursue the goals of development and prosperity.

Why have these governments deviated and adopted this standard although it is clearly incompatible with the basic responsibilities of the United Nations and the Security Council in particular? The answer is not known and it must be included within the hidden reasons.

Mr. President, While the Serbs and the Security Council are the protagonists of chapters I and II of the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the whole world is being pushed against its will to be the protagonist of chapter III, which has yet to be written, although it has already started to appear in a gradual manner.

If the United Nations continues to act according to the same rhythm that brought the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the point that it has reached, and if the Security Council continues to bear about the bush or to mark time, the third chapter will be written and the tragedy will be completed. Its dimensions will go beyond the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to encompass all the peoples of the world. Thus, will be dissipated the hopes that these people cherished while passing through the post-cold war era, to be replaced by misgivings about the new world order. These misgivings will be reflected in a number of valid questions:

— Is there more than one reading of the charter of the

United Nations?

— Is the double standard in dealing with international problems the rule and evenhandedness the exception?

— What will be the fate of small nations?

— What will be the fate of weak states adjacent to powerful ones?

— Is the persistent call for the protection of human rights a serious one? Or is it a political ploy?

— Are we justified in hoping for international cooperation and interdependence?

— Has the national security of a state to be embedded in the intensification of great power interdependence in that country even if this were at the expense of the development and prosperity of its people?

— Are we sliding into an abyss of new-colonisation, while approaching the 50th anniversary of the United Nations?

— Do Muslims have a special status, a negative one, in international relations?

— Have we to announce to our peoples that the world is turning back to the Middle Ages and not approaching the threshold of the 21st century?

— Does the Security Council realise the ramifications of grudges among peoples, especially if they accumulate on religious basis, at a time when socio-economic frustrations are growing?

— Will the United Nations bring about the fulfilment of the prophecy of the American Political Scientist Samuel Huntington who argues that the conflicts of the post-cold war era will flare up along the fault line of civilisations, Islam being one of them?

— How will the new world order look like if these are its features? Can we trust it? Indeed, can it be established on solid foundations?

— Is it really possible to deal with the various urgent issues that cram the international agenda?

— And eventually, what will be the fate of international peace and security?

The misgivings that are reflected on these questions are, Mr. President, the salient features of chapter III in the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Arab states, which uphold the Charter of the United Nations and abide by its provisions, do not wish to see this chapter written, because they want to live in a world where peace and security

prevail; where confidence in its international institutions is widely felt. They see that the path to that world is still open and that your august Council still has the opportunity to prevent the tragedy from reaching its horrible conclusion. The features of this path, as seen by the Arab states, are numerous. The most outstanding of which is:

The exemption of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the Security Council resolution 713 (1991) which bans the shipment of arms to former Yugoslavia.

It is most ironic, Mr. President, to say that the exemption of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from this resolution would only increase the number of killings and losses.

To say that would only mean one thing: To tolerate the killing of Bosnian Muslims and not to accept the killing of Serbian aggressors. So, let the victim bleed, but the aggressor must remain healthy and sound. What kind of logic is this? Do those who hold this option suppose that the continued bleeding of the Bosnian people will evoke mercy in the heart of the Serbian aggressor who perpetrates the crimes of ethnic cleansing, thereby motivating it to stop its aggression?

It is high time, Mr. President, that your august Council stop denying the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina its legitimate right of self-defence in accordance with article 51 of the Charter. There is not one reasonable argument that can convince us of the validity of the opinion that calls for the denial of the right to self-defence to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It was understood right from the beginning that the adoption of the arms embargo Resolution 713 (1990) by the Security Council implied that the United Nations itself would undertake on behalf of the victim the task of repelling the aggressor. The fact that this has not so far been the case, the Security Council by continuing the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, is not only violating the United Nations Charter but also indicates that dealing with Muslims goes by another guide-book.

Does the Security Council intend to establish this perception? Is this the way to consolidate the foundation of international peace and security?

In conclusion, I wish your august council every success, and I thank you, Mr. President.

ture Palestinian autonomy. The head of the Syrian delegation, Mouaffak Allaf also lamented that there has been "no progress" in this round of talks. "Unfortunately, this is a phrase that we have been repeating for the past 20 months."

He said it was the fault of the Israeli delegation for failing to have the mandate to negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Asked if he would host a meeting in the Netherlands between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Assad, Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers admitted it was a tempting idea, but said he deferred to Mr. Rabin's desire for a meeting in occupied Jerusalem.

"I try not to be too creating in my thinking" about solutions to the Mideast conflict, Mr. Lubbers said.

Mr. Rabin rejected Palestinian demands that Arab East Jerusalem be included in an interim agreement on self-rule and repeated Israel's position that the city's status is not negotiable.

U.S. presents paper

(Continued from page 1)

The document reportedly contains a U.S. plan for Palestinian autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories. Israel and the Palestinians have been unable to thrash out their own agreement, locking horns over the question of Jerusalem.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi lamented the lack of progress during this round of talks. She said the delegation would leave Friday for Tunis to brief Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders.

In Hague, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, without mentioning the Syrian leader by name, called on Hafez Al Assad to follow the example of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and make a historic visit to occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin told a news conference that Mr. Assad's visit was a must if Syria expects an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We will not negotiate the geographic specifics of a withdrawal until we know the kind of peace we will get," Mr. Rabin said at the end of a visit to the Netherlands.

"There is a need to convince the people of Israel that the other side wants peace — President Sadat, by his visit to Jerusalem, convinced the Israeli people that here is a leader that wants peace."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday in Cairo the talks offered "the last chance" for peace but he cautioned Washington not to spring a plan on the Palestinians that had not been negotiated ahead of time. (See page 10).

The U.S. plan that comes a day before peace talks end leaves no time for the two sides to discuss it, but it could give a boost to the next round of negotiations. No date has been set for the next round.

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Iraq on conciliatory note

(Continued from page 1)

evidence linking Saddam directly," one senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged.

At his news conference, Mr. Clinton said it was "very difficult to conceive" of improved relations with Baghdad in light of "the stubborn refusal of Iraq to comply with United Nations resolutions."

The White House heightened security precautions because of the tensions.

The State Department also took the unusual step of cautioning Americans to be mindful of "terrorists" even when travelling in the United States.

Meanwhile Ukraine told the United States Wednesday the American strike against Baghdad had complicated attempts by the Kiev parliament to ratify two key disarmament treaties.

Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko told the U.S. ambassador that Ukrainian deputies considering ratification of the START-I treaty on cutting strategic nuclear weapons and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on stopping the spread of nuclear arms were "concerned and alarmed" by the weekend blitz.

"Some deputies are linking the use of force in Iraq with the nuclear status of Ukraine. There is more and more criticism of official Ukrainian policy on the

nuclear issue," Mr. Zlenko told Ambassador Roman Popadiuk at a meeting attended by journalists.

"The question of rapid ratification of the START treaty has therefore become more complicated."

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who backed the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, said the missile attack on Baghdad was a throwback to Washington's cold war role as "world gendarme."

"President Clinton has made a serious mistake," Mr. Gorbachev wrote in Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper Wednesday.

Mr. Gorbachev said the Russian government had acted hastily in approving Washington's action as an act of self-defence.

The article coincided with a parliamentary declaration describing the action as a return to the "cult of force."

In a chilling reversion to the parlance of the cold war he helped end, Mr. Gorbachev said Washington had no right to play the role of investigator, prosecutor, court and executioner in international affairs.

He passed no judgment on Washington's assertion that Iraqi intelligence had planned to assassinate Mr. Bush. But he said the U.S. should in any case have referred the matter to the United

Nations, in the spirit of a new era. Gulf Arab newspapers broke their silence Wednesday on the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, some criticising President Clinton's action as evidence of traditional American enmity towards the Arabs.

Newspapers reiterated charges elsewhere in the Arab World of United States double standards and asked why Washington failed to take action to end attacks by Serbs against Bosnian Muslims.

"Nobody... has kind thoughts to offer on the obvious double standards employed by the U.S.... A couple of Tomahawks — in fact, probably the threat alone — would have sufficed to break the siege of Sarajevo," Dubai's English-language Khaleej Times said.

"What is really happening is that America is... humiliating the Iraqi people whenever it has a chance," said a signed commentary published in Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej and the Sharjah newspaper Al Khaleej.

Like other newspapers around the region, it argued that the American action could do nothing to remove President Saddam from power in Iraq, as the majority of Gulf Arabs would wish.

Kuwait, where Iraq is hated for its 1990 invasion, is so far alone among Gulf Arab states to applaud Sunday's attack.

Making a buck in Angola?

By Christopher McDougall
The Associated Press

LUANDA, Angola — The scarred, burly man opened his hand, displaying one route to riches still available in this nation of ruined cities and civil war.

Fingering an uncut diamond the size of a pencil eraser, the man agreed to tell how he and other adventurers make fortunes dealing in gems smuggled from rebel-held territory in northern Angola.

He used the alias Adolfo and repeatedly insisted, once at gunpoint, that no details be published that might identify him.

"We ate garbage off prison floors for two years. The police beat us. Where do you think these come from?" he said, pointing to his scars.

If arrested again, he would face harsh penalties from a government increasingly frustrated in its attempts to conserve its own diamond revenues and stop diamonds-for-arms deals it believes are restocking rebel arsenals.

The risks of smuggling diamonds are great, but so are the profits. Peter Gallegos, who represents the De Beers Diamond

Smuggle diamonds

Company in Luanda, estimates the smugglers did at least \$500 million in business last year, more than twice Angola's official diamond sales.

Nearly two decades of civil war between the government and rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have destroyed Angola's factories, wrecked its roads and bridges, and left farms abandoned. It spared only the oil fields, which the government now controls, and the diamond mines, held by the rebels.

The government believes many smugglers made deals with the rebels to stay in business after UNITA forces took Luanda Norte. The river beds and valleys of the remote northeastern province hold what could be the world's fourth-richest diamond deposits.

Adolfo said he does not deal with UNITA, but that, as a native of Luanda Norte and long-time buyer and smuggler of diamonds, he has seen every aspect of the trade.

He was jailed in late 1980s as part of a government crackdown

intended to make the diamond regions for commercial mining companies. Then in 1991, hoping for at least some profit from unofficial mining, the government legalised marketing of rough gems acquired outside the mining concessions.

"We advised the Angolan government that legalising independent diamond sales would be disastrous," said Mr. Gallegos of De Beers. "Looking back with hindsight, well, the figures speak for themselves."

Many new smugglers were soldiers who laid their weapons aside after peace accords were signed in May 1991 and struck out for diamond country, hoping to get rich. Then, in October 1992, fighting resumed.

Licensed offices pay much less for diamonds than the smugglers can make on the black market, but doing a small percentage of their business legitimately gives the smugglers cover for illegal transactions.

Adolfo said he now has three wives, and thus three families, who depend on him. He owns eight new 4-wheel-drive vehicles,

a mark of great wealth in a city where most of the 4 million residents must carry drinking water home from public taps.

One of the families and six of the vehicles were visible behind the 10-foot walls of Adolfo's home. Guards stood at the steel-plated gate and a few men loitered in the rutted road, hoping for a chat with the boss.

"A lot of the diamonds go across the border into Zaire," Adolfo said. "Some are sold, some get traded for weapons for UNITA that come down from Russia. The middlemen are Lebanese traders. When a smuggler has some stones, UNITA soldiers take him across the border."

During the initial 16-year phase of the Angolan civil war, the Soviet Union armed the government while the United States and South Africa supported UNITA.

Joao de Matos, the army chief of staff, said his troops had found new Russian-made machine guns in several northern cities retaken from the rebels.

Mr. de Matos has accused republics of the former Soviet Union of resupplying the rebels, who were supposed to have disarmed after the peace agreement.



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Australia faces a decade of high unemployment

CANBERRA (R) — Australians faced the stark prospect of a decade of high unemployment Wednesday as the government admitted it had little chance of cutting deeply into the record 10.7 per cent.

"Anything like full employment, however defined, will be desperately difficult to recapture in this country," Employment Minister Kim Beazley told the National Press Club.

But he said it may be possible to cut unemployment by 1999 to six per cent, its pre-recession level, "but only just," he said.

Australian unemployment is at present 10.7 per cent, down from a post-World War II record of 11.5 per cent reached in November and December. Unemployment figures for June are to be released on July 8.

Government sources say that

was probably the peak for this recession, which began in 1990, although some economists say unemployment may yet rebound.

Mr. Beazley said Australia would have to exceed the remarkably high rate of job creation achieved in the 1980s just to meet the six per cent target.

But rising population, workplace automation and the return of formerly discouraged jobseekers to the dole queues would make it harder to meet employment demand.

"We have to sprint with employment growth into the headwinds of increasing population, increasing labour force participation and increasing productivity," he said.

Each recession over the past 20 years has left the country with unemployment rates higher than when it began, rates which only

gradually eased before the cycle repeated.

"So where will we be when the next economic downturn is due," he asked.

He said that even the forecast of six per cent by 1999 relied on optimistic assumptions.

"To hit the target by mid-1999 we would need, for example, to create over 1.6 million new jobs and reduce unemployment by one for every 4.3 jobs, compared with one for every seven in the 1980s," he pointed out.

Australia's workforce is 7.2 million.

Mr. Beazley said the government had cut immigration in response to the recession and it would continue to do so, "so that we don't get into a situation where we are bringing people into this country to unemployment."

Russian cabinet fights deputies for tough budget

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government outlined tough spending plans for the rest of 1993 Wednesday, warning the conservative parliament the country faced catastrophe unless deputies approved its budget.

Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov said the cabinet was determined to keep the budget deficit to 10 per cent of gross national product or about 12 trillion roubles (\$12 billion). Spending across the board would be slashed by 15 per cent.

Officials in parliament have said they would not approve the budget unless it included a series of temporary resolutions allowing spending plans on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Fyodorov said he expected at least another go-ahead from the deputies Wednesday to keep the budget afloat.

He said state subsidies, including some for imported goods, would be slashed, excise duties would be imposed on energy resources and a number of laws providing for additional spending would be suspended. He did not elaborate.

One of the key elements in trimming the expenditure, Mr. Fyodorov said, was an effective abolition of technical credits to other former Soviet republics.

He said Russia lost \$18 billion in 1991 subsidising exports to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and

and tried to block the budget or force through additional spending plans.

"Tomorrow is July 1 and if we do not start financing the budget, naturally there will be strikes and protests," he warned.

His ministry's press release was more specific. It said any attempt by parliament to boost spending would mean "a financial catastrophe and would lead to uncontrolled inflation. In this case (parliament) will be responsible for deepening of the economic crisis."

Parliament has not yet approved the 1993 budget as a whole but has instead passed a series of temporary resolutions allowing spending plans on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Fyodorov said he expected at least another go-ahead from the deputies Wednesday to keep the budget afloat.

He said state subsidies, including some for imported goods, would be slashed, excise duties would be imposed on energy resources and a number of laws providing for additional spending would be suspended. He did not elaborate.

One of the key elements in trimming the expenditure, Mr. Fyodorov said, was an effective abolition of technical credits to other former Soviet republics.

He said Russia lost \$18 billion in 1991 subsidising exports to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and

offering credits which had never been paid back.

Future credits would be given only with parliament's approval and at commercial interest rates. The ex-Soviet states will have to guarantee repayment.

Mr. Fyodorov outlined measures to keep monetary policy tight, including a pledge from the central bank to bring its interest rate to a market level of between 150 and 160 per cent. This would make the rouble attractive and stop the capital flight.

The bank raised its discount rate to 140 per cent from 120 per cent Tuesday, the third rise in June.

The government aimed to keep the rouble at around 1,100 to the dollar for the next two months, he said.

The rouble has more than halved in value this year amid fears that authorities were not doing enough to control inflation. But it has been stable last month in a range between 1,060 and 1,116 per dollar.

Mr. Fyodorov, a key reformer in the government, said his main problem was not infighting in the cabinet, widely alleged by the Russian media, but finding time to think.

"In between telephone calls from 100 ministries and agencies, 89 regions and at least 100 largest enterprises — and all of them call once a week to ask for money — my main problem is to set aside time to think," he said.

Fiat to sell non-core activities

TURIN (AFP) — The Fiat engineering group intends to sell its "non-strategic" interests. Fiat President Giovanni Agnelli said Wednesday, warning that the company faced difficulties in 1993.

Mr. Agnelli, speaking at the beginning of a meeting of shareholders here, said that 1993 would be another difficult year. Sales would total nearly \$40 billion (€40 billion) which was comparable to the figure for 1992.

the economic result of the management will be negative," he said.

This was because demand in the first five months of 1993 had fallen sharply and this trend was expected to continue until the end of the year.

The financial situation of the group would probably turn out to be worse. Net borrowings would be higher than the 3,800 billion lire reported in 1992.

Fiat is the biggest private group

in Italy.

Mr. Agnelli said he hoped that international interest rates would fall more quickly and the economic policies would be coordinated better to cope with the long period of recession in the world economy.

He argued for an improvement of the state of public finances, a reduction of expenditure and the publication of a privatisation programme.

Audi plunges into \$117m loss

INGOLSTADT, Germany (AFP) — Audi, the luxury car maker owned by Volkswagen A.G., announced Wednesday that it had plunged into a loss of 198 million marks (\$117.15 million) in the first half of 1993, after a profit of 315 million marks (\$186 million) in the same period a year earlier.

Turnover in the January-June session fell by 29 per cent to 6.05 billion (\$3.57 billion) compared

to the figure a year earlier.

Vehicle production was down by 32 per cent to 173,712 units, it said.

Audi had a record year in 1992, feeding on a boom in the German car market triggered by post-unification spending.

Last year saw a 13 per cent increase in turnover, to 16.7 billion marks, yielding profit that rose from 508 million marks in 1991 to 756 million. Car output

rose by 5.4 per cent to 472,685.

Franz-Josef Korte, appointed this year to succeed Ferdinand Piech as president of the troubled V.W. empire, said Audi could pull back into profit this year, although this would take "very great efforts and clear measures."

"Whether we succeed depends on the future market trends, which are not at all promising at the moment," he added.

British Rail reports \$244m loss

LONDON (R) — State-owned British Rail (B.R.), due to be sold off from next year, has fallen deeper into the red and warned Wednesday that it did not have enough money to stop the ageing passenger network from deteriorating.

Chairman Bob Reid reported a pre-tax loss of £163.9 million (\$244.5 million) for the year to March 31, against a £24.6 million loss in 1991/92 — and said at least £850 million (\$1.27 billion) a year was needed in the next decade merely to maintain the existing network.

"Our financing limit for 1993/94 means that we cannot afford to invest at that level. Maintaining the infrastructure has to be our first priority for the money that is available," he said.

"More needs to be spent to prevent the railway deteriorating with an increasing number of

speed restrictions, and a general reduction in reliability," he added.

This figure was quite apart from the hundreds of millions of pounds needed for new capital projects, Sir Reid said.

Sir Reid said B.R.'s central government subsidies rose 29 per cent to nearly £1.2 billion (\$1.79 billion) last year but this included operating subsidies of over £807 million (\$905.4 million) and was still 21 per cent less than the real level of support B.R. was getting from government 10 years ago.

Under government privatisation plans most of B.R.'s passenger services will be sold off as franchises to the private sector.

But many lines will continue to be subsidised by the government. The track and signalling infrastructure will be kept with a new public authority, Railtrack, and the new operators will have to

lease the trains from British Rail.

B.R.'s total operating profit after its government subsidy last year fell to £13.4 million (\$19.99 million) from £18.7 million (\$27.89 million) a year ago with the bottom line hit by heavy redundancy costs and higher interest charges.

The workforce was cut by six per cent to just under 130,000 staff, with the aid of a voluntary redundancy scheme.

Of B.R.'s three passenger divisions only its intercity long-distance unit made an underlying operating profit without subsidy — of £10.9 million (\$16.26 million).

The trainload freight bulk transport business was the only one of the three freight businesses due for sell-off that made an operating profit — of £103.1 million (\$153.8 million).

Hungarian says gradual reform outdistances 'shock therapy'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hungary's gradual approach to converting communism to a market economy is succeeding better than the "shock treatment" tried by its East European neighbours, says Bela Kadar, the Hungarian economics minister.

Other former Soviet Bloc countries talked of completing the transition in a year to 500 days, but "we didn't believe it," and were "the only country that opted for the stage-by-stage approach," he said.

As expected, three to four years were needed, and now "the worst part is behind us," in contrast to others. Mr. Kadar said in answer to questions at a Hungarian-U.S. business council meeting.

"If there is anything we can be proud of, it is that in the past three years, the 'transition,' or social cost, of transition, has been the smallest for Hungary" in the region, he told the gathering at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Using "shock therapy" for economic reform can mean shortages and more severe hardships that the people reject using their new democratic rights, he said, mentioning voting in Slovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. Disagreement over economic reform was a factor in the breakup of Czechoslovakia into the Czech and Slovak republics after elections last year.

Czech leaders, who pressed quick reform, maintain that their transition is succeeding, and could dispute whether Hungary is the most successful.

Part of the proof is that Hungary became "the most investment-worthy country of the region," Mr. Kadar said. At the

end of March, he said, it had \$5.1 billion worth of foreign equity investment, more than 55 per cent of all investment in the former Soviet Bloc region, including 15,000 joint ventures and 2,500 exclusively foreign-owned concerns.

"Can 15,000 foreign investors be wrong?" he asked.

Since 1989, he said, Hungarian small businesses have quadrupled in number from 160,000 to

640,000, reflecting dramatic middle-class growth and confidence in the future.

Hungary, with 13 per cent unemployment, lost 18 per cent of its domestic output the past three years, compared to an average of 31 per cent by all former bloc countries, Mr. Kadar said. But it has transformed one of the world's most centralised economies into what "can now be considered an open economy."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury goes retrograde today but you can still tune in on what is going on about you with real ease and get good results. Expect cooperation from others who haven't been too receptive in the past.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Business affairs seem to move slowly due to action of a business person but tonight you find that there is need to be alert to new ways to operate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A personal plan you had in mind runs into some snag so don't force matters while later a business matter appears to be more a problem than it is.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Accept a burden there seems little to be done about and then be on the qui vive to go along with an opportunity you have to push your personal interests.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You would be wise to avoid a friend early who is in a depressing frame of mind as you can't help, later buy yourself at chores in unusual manner.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) You find it difficult to get some outside backing so have your facts correct while later you find unusual conditions present blocking gaining a goal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Trying to put into motion a

Kohl says savings necessary to secure German future growth

COLOGNE (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Germany's future prosperity depended on Bonn's tough saving plan as the country seeks to recover from its worst recession since World War II.

"We are in a serious recession," Mr. Kohl told a meeting of retailers Tuesday evening. "It is not pleasant. But we need the savings ... to win security for future economic growth."

Earlier Mr. Kohl's centre-right coalition government rolled out a public spending plan for the next three years, combined with other measures to revive a flagging national economy.

The plan foresees slashing 21.04 billion marks (\$12.4 billion) from federal spending in 1994, with savings rising to 27.3 billion (\$16.1 billion) in 1995 and 28.75 billion (\$16.9 billion) in 1996.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel told German television the savings plan should pave the way for the Bundesbank to lower interest rates, although it was up to the central bank to make the decision.

"I think we have opened room for the Bundesbank, although it must make that decision itself," Mr. Waigel said. "The Bundesbank has already welcomed the

approach to this plan."

The independent central bank has repeatedly criticised public authorities for not doing more to rein in spending and has blamed high public deficits for boosting inflation.

Earlier Mr. Waigel admitted the 1994 federal budget deficit would probably remain at 1993's record level of about 68 billion marks, compared with 39 billion marks (\$23 billion) in 1992.

But without the package, it would have risen to more than 90 billion marks next year.

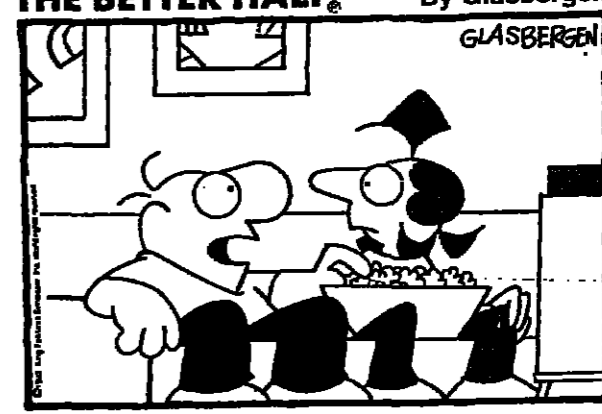
Mr. Waigel also said the package should have positive effects on the German economy already in the second half of this year.

In terms of 1994 savings, slashed unemployment and welfare benefits along with a freeze in unemployment contributions should save Bonn 13.72 billion marks (\$8.1 billion).

Cuts in industrial and agricultural subsidies, a freeze in civil service pay and a reduction in child benefit would each save around a billion marks, a government document showed.

"This is the first thing we must do for the stability of our currency ... we in Germany have lived beyond our means," Mr. Kohl said, referring to the proposal on wage freezes.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"That's the last time I rent a romantic movie! You drooled all over the popcorn!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEMYS
YOWDD
DIBITT
UNDASE

WHAT THE EPISTEMIC OF MEASLES IN GENEVA CREATED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: LEAKY PLAIT AGENDA BEHIND
Answer: This can turn a shoe into a sleeper — A BANANA PEEL

THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz

ACROSS

- 1 Lily type
- 2 Mark deeply
- 3 Corner pole
- 4 Salmagundi
- 5 Commandment word
- 6 Abominable snowman
- 7 Merganser
- 8 Give up
- 9 Wander aimlessly
- 10 Oil ship
- 11 Badly paid
- 12 Concerning
- 13 Treat badly
- 14 Covers up
- 15 Seaman city
- 16 — to be true
- 17 Japanese sash
- 18 Vacationing place
- 19 Solitary person
- 20 Weapons
- 21 Suit to
- 22 Yields
- 23 Roughly
- 24 — Shari
- 25 Exclamation of discovery
- 26 Rapid-fire speech
- 27 Tra —
- 28 Hayworth or
- 29 13 multiplied by
- 30 Wristful
- 31 Conflict, in literature
- 32 Actor Roger
- 33 Like wings
- 34 20 Ym off excess on
- 35 Doctrines
- 36 Drip's kin
- 37 Give it —
- 38 Make happy

DOWN

- 1 Foolish old man
- 2 — prove
- 3 Legal holding
- 4 Inspects
- 5 Valued property
- 6 And so forth: abbr.
- 7 "I'm in — for love"
- 8 Writing a secret language
- 9 Colors
- 10 Large numbers
- 11 Long periods
- 12 Bare
- 13 Multiplied by
- 21 Says in reply
- 25 Skin opening
- 26 Actor Roger
- 27 Like wings
- 28 20 Ym off excess on
- 29 Doctrines
- 31 Becomes candid
- 32 — Hell
- 33 Blow a horn
- 34 Biography
- 40 Marco
- 43 Mathematical quantity
- 44 One who fixes boundaries
- 45 Fokien spender
- 47 Piece of apparel
- 48 — Heights
- 50 Icon
- 51 Bravery
- 53 Salary hike
- 55 Melody
- 57 Goodbye
- 58 Coup d' —
- 59 Network of nerves
- 62 One or another

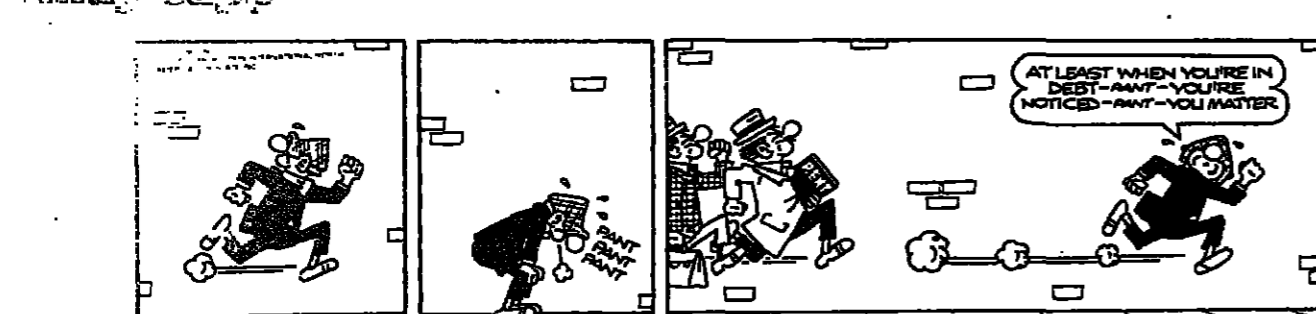
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

AGRA BODIN STERN
HAPPY MORN PERIN
TOPPERBENT ARRON
SWEETENERS ACROSS
HIS ALFA
GRAYA JARA BOND
REPENT MAR TIER
ALAN ARROW BIRD
HIVIA SUE HAMERS
HIVIA SUE HAMERS
SCHOOL SERENADE
KRAVE CHAIRBIRD
HIVIA SUE HAMERS
KRAVE CHAIRBIRD
KRAVE CHAIRBIRD

Francois



Randy Rapp



Statt'n' Jeff



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Corpses float downstream as shells hit Bosnian Muslim town

SARAJEVO (R) — Corpses floated down stream from the central Bosnian Muslim town of Maglaj under fierce artillery attack again Wednesday, Sarajevo Radio reported.

Bodies were seen in the Bosnia river after bombardments apparently by both Serb and Croat forces.

A nearby village was ablaze and refugees were pouring out after several days of fighting. Witnesses said Novi Seher village was overrun by Serb tank troops Tuesday.

The reports could not be confirmed but on Tuesday Reuters reporters saw hundreds of dead Muslim soldiers and civilians streaming southwards from the area around the town of Maglaj, Novi Seher and Zepe.

Against a background of fighting, Bosnia's collective presidency decided to draw up its own peace proposal instead of negotiating over a Serb-Croat plan to divide the republic into three confederated mini-states.

U.N. military peacekeepers have not been able to get into the area since the fighting flared last week. Croat and Muslim troops have turned them away and one destroyed armoured vehicle was damaged after hitting a land mine on Monday.

The Muslims accuse the Serbs of collaborating in their attacks. Military sources in the central town of Vitez said Maglaj was being shelled from the east by Serbs and from the west by Croat forces.

"It looks as though there has been collusion," said one military source.

The news agency Tanjug said Zepe, a mainly Croat town, was under the control of Croat forces who had pushed Muslim troops several kilometres out of it, but fighting appeared to be continuing in the area.

Sarajevo Radio said fierce battles raged in the southwest city of Mostar overnight but that Muslim forces had taken a Croat army barracks and captured a large number of soldiers.

The Croatian News Agency (HINA), quoting Bosnian Croat army sources, also said there had been an attack on their barracks and on Croats north of Mostar but that they had been repulsed.

Meanwhile, the military leadership of Bosnia's Croats ordered a general mobilisation Thursday and clamped an overnight curfew on all Croat-controlled areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

HINA said Jadranko Prlic, president of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO), ordered all those eligible for military service to report for duty within 24 hours.

Fighting flared elsewhere in the republic but the capital Sarajevo, suffering electricity breakdowns, appeared to be relatively calm with sporadic shelling and small arms fire.

Meeting in Sarajevo Tuesday, the multi-ethnic presidency ignored Serb and Croat warnings to accept their proposal for a three-way partition or see Bosnia's Muslims lose their last chance of a homeland.

Vice-President Ejup Ganic, a Muslim, told reporters the Sarajevo meeting did not even discuss the Serb and Croat proposal at its two-hour meeting.

Instead the presidency assigned three members to draw up new

constitutional proposals to be presented to international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg next week.

The presidency appointed Mr. Ganic, Croat member Miro Lasic and Miro Lazovic, the Serb president of the Bosnian assembly, to draw up its proposal.

"We have to find a solution that will keep the country together," he said.

Bosnia could not be dictated to by Serbian and Croatian Presidents Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman who put forward the partition proposal, Mr. Ganic said.

The meeting tried to heal a split in the presidency between its Muslim president and vice-president, Alija Izetbegovic and Mr. Ganic, and the seven members who defied them last week by going to Geneva to hear details of the Serb and Croat plan.

A U.S.-backed resolution to exempt Muslim-led Bosnia from an arms embargo failed to win adoption by the U.N. Security Council Tuesday following the abstention of Europeans and other members.

The vote was six in favour, with none against and nine abstentions by Brazil, Britain, China, France, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and Spain.

A resolution requires a minimum of nine votes, and no veto, to be adopted by the 15-member Council.

Voting for the draft were its original non-aligned sponsors — Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela — supported only by the vote of United States.

Washington has long advocated lifting the embargo but been unable to convince its allies.

It did not actively lobby for the resolution and spoke only after the vote had taken place.

Britain, France and Spain, which have troops serving with the U.N. in Bosnia, fear that lifting the arms ban would only add to the bloodshed, extend the fighting and open their forces to retaliation by the Bosnian Serbs and Croats battling the Muslim-led government.

The Council imposed the embargo in September 1991 on all republics of the former Yugoslavia.

A bitter Bosnian ambassador told the council: "You have no more authority to demand any further concessions from us, but only to free us of the shackles that diminish our self-defence and our capacity to pursue negotiations."

Castigating the international community for failing to act decisively, Muhammad Sacirbey said: "We, the Bosnians, are dead tired of running on this treadmill of cynicism that exhausts us with bitterness, hopelessness and helplessness while serving the public relations interests of certain political leaders."

Referring to international mediator Lord Owen, the envoy said: "If Bosnia and Herzegovina wanted to commit suicide, we do not need the assistance of the Dr. Jack Keavonian of mediation and diplomacy."

He was alluding to an American doctor notorious for helping the terminally ill end their lives.

Swedish General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, outgoing commander of the U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia, took his leave Wednesday in simple ceremony at UNPROFOR headquarters in Zagreb.

Rebel commander heads Azerbaijani government

OSCAR (Agencies) — Rebel commander Sured Guseinov, inflaming troops for Azerbaijan and resident Aliyev Elchibey to soon take 12 days ago, Wednesday was appointed prime minister of the embattled Caucasus republic, news agency reported.

Lawmakers approved this pointment of the 35-year-old Guseinov and gave him sweeping powers over the ministries of defence, security and interior in a move that signalled a new resolve to fight the war against Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijani strongman Geidar Aliyev decided to appoint Col. Guseinov to the post of premier following three days of difficult negotiations in the capital, Baku.

Between the new leader and the commander in the capital of Baku.

In proposing his candidacy to the Milli-Medjlis, the country's parliament, Mr. Guseinov stated that it was necessary to unite all political and military forces to "liberate the territories occupied by the Armenians," ITAR-TASS reported.

Col. Guseinov told the assembly following the vote that he promised to pull the country out of its economic crisis and "put an end to the war" in the Armenian-populated enclave, the news agency added.

Col. Guseinov's rise to head the government came after Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday seized the northern town of Martakert, the last major Azerbaijani stronghold in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The warlord, who controlled about 1,200 men during the three-week uprising, Sunday ordered his troops to lift their siege of the capital and join government forces in fighting Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In talks with Mr. Aliyev earlier this month, Col. Guseinov had vowed to win back towns and villages seized by Armenian forces in the past months despite a proposed peace plan approved by all three sides in the conflict.

The peace settlement brokered by Russia, the U.S. and Turkey called for a ceasefire and immediate talks on the five-year conflict between Azeris and Armenians

over the Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Thousands have died in the war that brought down Mr. Elchibey and his predecessor, Ayaz Mutaibov, for their inability to end the fighting.

Mr. Elchibey, who last February sacked Col. Guseinov from his post of commander of Azeri forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, had forced to flee the capital when Col. Guseinov's men began advancing towards Baku from their stronghold of Gyandzha.

The rebel troops seized Gyandzha after a bloody clash with government troops on June 4 that killed 69 and injured 200, and launched their campaign to oust Mr. Elchibey and "all those responsible" for the bloodshed.

Former Premier Panakh Guseinov resigned over the violent incident in the days that followed the clash but there were reports that Mr. Aliyev had since entered into negotiations with Yelizar Mamedov, leader of the National Independence Party, for the post of premier.

Mr. Aliyev, a Brezhnev-era Communist Party leader who

made a dramatic comeback to rule Azerbaijan in the midst of the military rebellion, took over as head of state after parliament last week stripped Mr. Elchibey of his powers.

Mr. Elchibey, who denounced the move as a coup, has been in hiding in Makhichevan, an Azeri republic sandwiched between Iran, Turkey and Armenia, and it appeared unlikely following Mr. Guseinov's appointment as premier that he could return to power.

More than 1,000 supporters of Mr. Elchibey demonstrated in Baku Tuesday and diplomats said the former Soviet Republic's crisis was only just beginning.

Supporters of Elchibey's Popular Front gathered in front of the movement's Baku headquarters to demand the return of the democratically elected president, who fled 11 days ago to escape the uprising.

They denounced Mr. Aliyev. "Down with Aliyev, down with the Junta," chanted the crowd. "We know only one president and he is Elchibey."

African negotiators seek to break deadlock

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Democracy negotiators struggled Wednesday to break a deadlock over a constitution for a post-apartheid South Africa under black majority rule.

The African National Congress (ANC) and the government want to hold a new constitution.

Right-wing white and black groups spearheaded by the Zulu-led Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) are demanding that the current non-elected negotiating council finalise a blueprint for the future.

ANC chief negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa said Tuesday night at negotiators could not draft a constitution because they were not elected and had no mandate.

The country's five-to-one black majority have never voted in elections.

"This introduces a major deadlock," Ramaphosa said and urged negotiators to debate a compromise solution.

Joe Slovo of the ANC-allied communist Party said that if there had to be a parting of the ways, "so be it."

Conference sources said a talkout by Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi of the Inkatha, the country's largest homogenous black political group, was the main threat to the 20-party talks.

Inkatha is seeking a federal state with strong regional powers, while the ANC wants a unitary state.

Inkatha negotiator Walter Felde said Tuesday: "We say 'no' to an elected Constituent Assembly writing a constitution. We have a deadlock."

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP), in a loose association with Inkatha and other conservative black and white groups in the concerned South Africans group (COSAG), has so threatened to quit the talks if

its demands for white regional autonomy were not met.

The cabinet met in Pretoria early Wednesday with the chief government negotiators present to discuss the deadlock.

The cabinet later met again for its regular mid-week session.

Wednesday's talks were held amid the tightest police security so far following last Friday's assault by right-wing whites on the World Trade Centre, the talks venue on the Johannesburg outskirts.

There was a strong police presence, while two separate bands of barbed wire had been strung around the building.

The black radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) was holding a demonstration outside the centre to demand a neutral venue and chairman for the talks after Friday's attack, in which members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) smashed their way in behind an armoured car.

Police said Wednesday 35 white right-wingers had been arrested in connection with Friday's events. Of these, four were released without charges and 31 were freed on bail Tuesday.

They were due to appear in court on later dates to be formally charged, a police spokeswoman said.

The ANC has demanded the arrest of leaders of the right-wing umbrella Afrikaner People's Front (APF) for the attack on the World Trade Centre, but none have so far been detained.

The ANC plans nationwide demonstrations Thursday "in defence of democracy."

Top AVF officials met in the Pretoria area Wednesday to discuss the political damage to their cause for a white homeland from the assault. They said several committees would meet over the next few days to consider "important matters," but did not elaborate.

Black Sea Fleet told to hoist Soviet-era flag

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of the Black Sea Fleet Wednesday ordered all ships to hoist the Soviet-era navy flag in an attempt to crush an officers' protest at the planned division of the fleet between Russia and Ukraine.

An order from Eduard Baltin quoted by ITAR-TASS News Agency said the fleet should not become a victim to political games. Some officers called earlier this week for the raising of Russia's St Andrew's Ensign as a symbolic gesture of defiance.

"The fleet is not controlled by a public-political organisations, meetings and rallies, but by its high command," Admiral Baltin said in a telegram sent to commanders of Fleet units.

"It is working jointly with the leadership of Russia and Ukraine to overcome existing problems which are being resolved at inter-governmental levels."

A group of navy officers threatened Tuesday not to carry out an agreement concluded in Moscow this month to split the Black Sea Fleet equally between Russia and Ukraine. They said the deal was against the interests of the both former Soviet republics.

The officers called for the 300-ship fleet to be placed under exclusive Russian jurisdiction. A Ukrainian naval commander denounced the appeal as "a political act aimed at torpedoing the Moscow agreement."

Albanian police clash with angry ethnic Greeks

GIROKASTER, Albania (R) — Albanian riot police clashed with angry ethnic Greeks Wednesday and were braced for further trouble as Greece continued its mass expulsion of illegal Albanian immigrants.

Police drove back a crowd of some 300 Greeks in the village of Derivian trying to reach the southern Albanian town of Gjirokastra some 10 kilometres away for a protest demonstration by members of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Gjirokastra Police Chief Jashar Vreka said he had called in reinforcements to contain what he called an illegal gathering by ethnic Greeks incensed at Albania's deportation of a senior Greek Orthodox priest.

The move to expel Chrysostomos Maidonis promoted Athens to order the mass deportation of Albanians illegally in Greece, whose number is put at 150,000 to 300,000. Over 10,000 have been expelled in the past five days.

"There can be no cause for trouble between the Orthodox and Muslim communities," Chief Vreka said. "We have taken all measures to prevent unrest."

Albania has recalled its ambassador to Athens and urged the United Nations to intervene in the dispute, which according to President Sali Berisha threatened stability in the southern Balkans.

A crowd of over 600 ethnic Greeks formed inside Gjirokastra's Orthodox Church Wednesday morning. At noon they marched with candles to the Greek consulate to demonstrate against the Albanian government.

In Derivian one policeman was cut by a flying stone and an officer brandished his pistol, but no shots were fired.

The demonstrators were driven back by police with shields and batons. A church official said one man was beaten by police and taken to Gjirokastra Hospital but the hospital could not confirm this.



Bosnian Muslim refugees walk a mountain road leaving their home town due to Croat offensive near the village of Zeljezno Polje Tuesday after (AFP photo)

Khmer Rouge to return to Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction will send a senior official to Phnom Penh on Thursday to negotiate the return of their titular leader, Khieu Samphan, the head of the Royalist Party, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said Wednesday.

The Marxist Khmer Rouge, citing "security concerns," abruptly left their high-walled compound in Phnom Penh on April 13 to return to their headquarters at Pailin near the Thai frontier in western Cambodia.

They had previously reneged on the peace accord they signed in 1991 and threatened to disrupt the United Nations-organised elections held in May.

"I'd like to confirm that the Khmer Rouge will send Mr. Chan Youan on the first of July as emissary to prepare the ground for excellency Khieu Samphan to come here very soon to visit my father (Prince Norodom Sihanouk)," Prince Ranariddh told reporters.

Mr. Chan Youan was ambassador to China during the Khmer Rouge reign of terror from 1975-1979 in which more than one million Cambodians died.

In a dramatic softening of their stand against the U.N. peacekeepers, a Khmer Rouge general, meeting Wednesday with the U.N.'s military commander, Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, Prince Ranariddh said.

"It's very strange now that the Khmer Rouge have become real allies of UNTAC after fighting with UNTAC very seriously. But it's good for Cambodia," he said.

The U.N.'s military spokesman confirmed that Gen. Sanderson was now on a two-day visit to U.N. military units in the north-west.

The head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Yasushi Akashi described Wednesday's assembly meeting as an encouraging step for Cambodian democracy.

"It's still a faltering step but a very important and positive step," he said, adding the United Nations stood by, ready to assist.

Last Thursday, the leader of Cambodia's two main political parties, once enemies on the battlefield, agreed on the composition of an interim government.

The Royalist FUNCINPEC Party led by Prince Ranariddh won the May poll ahead of its bitter rival, the Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

FUNCINPEC is the French acronym for the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia.

Under new power-sharing arrangements, both men will serve as "co-president" with shared responsibility for the powerful Defence and Internal Security ministries.

Cambodian head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, on June 14 was formally appointed by Cambodia's Constituent Assembly to serve as chief of state.

Meeting Wednesday morning, the assembly unanimously approved the appointment of former non-Communist guerrilla leader, Son Sann, as chairman.

Son Sann is head of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party which ran a distant third in the May elections but still secured a role as minor coalition partner in the new interim government.

Representatives of the guerrillas in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces also said they would open the 20 per cent of the country they control to U.N. peacekeepers. U.N. military spokesman Lt. Col. John Weiland said Wednesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EC sets conditions for membership

BRUSSELS (R) — The EC Commission said Wednesday Cyprus and Malta could one day join the European Community (EC) but would first have to overcome serious obstacles. The commission, the 12-nation bloc's executive, said Cyprus must find a political settlement to the ethnic dispute that has split the island in two before any membership talks can begin. If no settlement is reached by 1995, EC governments will have to reassess Cyprus's application. External Political Relations Commissioner Hans Van Den Broek told a news conference. Malta in turn will have to overhaul its financial, economic and budget structures, he said. The commission recommended these conditions in routine advice to EC governments on the membership bids submitted by the two countries in June 1992.

Yeltsin pays homage to democracy

ATHENS (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin paid homage to democracy Wednesday while visiting the site of ancient Greece's first democratic assembly and striding among the hilltop ruins of the Acropolis temples. The Russian leader was handed a plaque of honour by Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis at a ceremony at the Pnyx overlooking Athens where the assembly met in the 5th century BC to give birth to Western-style democracy. Under a scorching sun, a relaxed and good-spirited Yeltsin paid tribute to Greece's democratic traditions in a brief remark to Mr. Mitsotakis. Referring to his own political battles in Russia, he said: "But the road to democracy is a tough one." Earlier, Mr. Yeltsin, on the first visit by a Russian leader to Greece, strolled up the adjacent hill — hand-in-hand with his wife Naina — to the Acropolis temples. At one point, to the alarm of his bodyguards, he waded into a group of tourists, shaking hands and exchanging jokes.

Mobutu spurns foreign intervention

CAIRO (R) — Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, his country in economic collapse and racked by civil turmoil, rejected any suggestion Wednesday that it desperately needed outside help. "We cannot internationalise this," Mr. Mobutu, one of the longest serving strongmen of Africa, told reporters at an often combative news conference during the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo. Mr. Mobutu said he voted in favour of an OAU resolution expanding its role in resolving African conflicts. But he said he did not want the OAU to mediate in tribal turmoil in parts of Zaire. In one region of Zaire, North Kivu, hundreds have been killed in clashes between indigenous Nyanga and Bahunde people and settlers from neighbouring Rwanda. "I have not asked the OAU or the United Nations to mediate in the affairs of my country," Mr. Mobutu said. "I want a dialogue between the political leaders of my country."

3 arson attacks reported in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — Police reported three pre-dawn arson attacks against Turks in Germany Wednesday. At least one was suspected as an anti-foreigner assault. Two people were injured. Bavarian state police announced a reward of 10,000 marks (\$5,900) for clues in the firebombing of a Turkish family's apartment in Erdendorf. They said it appeared to be politically motivated. A Turkish man suffered cuts in escaping with his wife and two small children, and a pregnant German woman living in an adjacent apartment suffered serious smoke inhalation from the fire that gutted the Turkish family's apartment. Police in western Germany were investigating arson attacks during the night on a Turkish family in Cologne and on a Turkish-owned grocery store in Ludwigshafen. No injuries were reported, and the motives in the attacks were not clear, police said. The spate of arson came a day before a new German law goes into effect to make it more difficult for foreigners to claim asylum in Germany. The law was passed partly to try to reduce violence against foreigners, but attacks have continued.

Clinton popularity at low ebb — poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's job performance got a negative rating from about half of those questioned in a Washington Post-ABC News poll. Last weekend's U.S. missile attack on Iraqi Intelligence Headquarters had a modest positive effect on Mr. Clinton's rating, said the survey released Tuesday. Among the half of those interviewed before the bombing, 41 per cent approved of the president's performance. After the attack, the positive figure was 46 per cent. The disapproval percentages were largely unchanged, dipping from 51 per cent before the attack to 48 per cent afterward. These figures represented a postwar low for a president five months into his administration, the Post said. The poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,514 adults June 25-28. The statistical error was given as plus or minus three percentage points.

Belgium becomes EC president

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgium, one of the most federal-minded members of the European Community (EC), takes over the revolving six-month presidency of the EC from Denmark Thursday. At the same time Britain makes way for Greece in the EC's diplomatic mission or "troika" comprising the present, and immediate past and future presidents. It will now comprise three of the Community's smaller countries — Belgium, Denmark and Greece. The Belgian presidency comes at a time when the EC's federalist ambitions have been badly dented by economic recession, failure to resolve civil war in ex-Yugoslavia and 12 months of soul-searching over the Maastricht union treaty. Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene said this week that Belgium's presidency priorities included rapid implementation of the treaty for economic and political union, which has a single EC currency as its central goal. "After more than a year of uncertainty, it seems to me tremendously important that the implementation of (the) Maastricht (treaty) should not be underestimated for a moment," he said in an interview.

Yeltsin to meet Kohl — in Siberia

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will have a "working meeting" with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Siberian city of Irkutsk on July 10-11, a presidential spokesman said. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kohl will confer in the city on their way back from a Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven industrial countries to which the Russian president has also been invited.

13-year-old joyrider caught at Austrian border

MUNICH (AP) — A 13-year-old who could barely see over the steering wheel was caught trying to drive a stolen car into Austria, police said. The boy was a known car thief in his hometown of Frankfurt Am Der Oder in eastern Germany. Police there said he was caught recently driving 170 kilometres per hour in a stolen car. The boy was too young to jail, so his parents put him in "house arrest," but he got away and stole the car that was stopped at the Austrian border, 800 kilometres from his home.

Drug trafficker buried in coffin of gold, diamonds

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — A drug trafficker shot by soldiers last week was buried in a gold and diamond-decorated coffin, the government newspaper El Nacional reported Tuesday. The funeral procession for Beltran Bojorquez, who was suspected of smuggling drugs into the United States, included Rolls Royces, Ferraris and limousines "rarely seen on this border," the government newspaper said. El Nacional reported from this city just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. Atop Bojorquez' \$19,000 bronze coffin were 14-karat gold decorations and a diamond-studded crucifix containing more than 30 of the gems, the newspaper said. The coffin was placed in a walled tomb which is protected by the cartels. Bojorquez was one of five drug traffickers shot to death in the north Mexican town of Guadalupe Y Calvo last week. Several of the 16 soldiers allegedly involved have been arrested on rights violation charges for shooting the men after arresting them in the mountains. El Nacional said heavily armed men guarded the coffin to keep away curiosity seekers.

Olivia De Havilland's Dior wardrobe sold

LONDON (AP) — The wardrobe of actress Olivia De Havilland, who was outfitted almost exclusively by the house of Christian Dior, was sold for \$29,040 (\$43,300) at a Christie's auction. The Dior Museum in Paris paid \$4,950 (\$7,400), more than twice the pre-sale estimate, for an A-line gray flannel suit designed by Dior for Ms. De Havilland's 1995 wedding to Pierre Galante, a French magazine editor, Christie's said. A pink evening dress designed by Yves Saint Laurent which the actress wore at a dinner party given by former British Prime Minister Edward Heath in 1971 sold for \$1,540 (\$2,300). "The sale was successful and I hope that the clothes are happy with their new owners and that their new owners are happy with them," Miss De Havilland was quoted by Christie's as saying after the sale. The actress' wardrobe, dating from 1956-74, included over 70 dresses, suits and evening gowns designed by Dior and his successors at the house, Saint Laurent and Marc Bohan.

Count of Paris counter-attacks in family heirloom sale

PARIS (R) — In scenes more akin to a soap opera than to royal grandeur, the pretender to France's defunct throne counter-attacked against his own children who are trying to stop him from selling the family silver. Lawyers for the Count of Paris, 85-year-old Henri d'Orleans, demanded the lifting of a June 17 court ruling banning him from selling furniture, paintings, jewellery and silver estimated at 20 million francs (\$3.6 million). The sale by Sotheby's auction house was scheduled for July 3 in the Riviera principality of Monaco. Seven of the count's nine surviving children obtained the ruling on the grounds that the heirlooms were passed on to the eldest son as guardian of family property. Lawyers for the count and his wife, Princess Isabelle d'Orleans-Bragance, argued that the objects on sale had no sentimental value and belonged to the count as long as he lived. "The sale is inevitable because the count has no castle to place around his paintings and the count and madame need to live," said lawyer Simon Gueulle.

Scientists seek Loch Ness monster

EDINBURGH (R) — Scientists started a search which could flush out Scotland's beloved monster, the legendary "nessie" said to live in Loch Ness. Popular tradition says the huge beastie lurks in Britain's deepest lake, a freak survival from prehistoric days. Sightings have been reported recently only a week ago. Nessie has brought in millions of pounds for the tourist trade but her existence has never been authenticated.

Agassi bows out

WIMBLEDON (AP) — With his shoulder aching and the centre court crowd wildly cheering for Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras kept his cool and held on for a five-set victory Wednesday to reach the Wimbledon semifinals.

The top-seeded Sampras, who was treated several times by the trainer for the inflamed tendon in his right shoulder, stood off a furious comeback by the defending champion to win 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-4 in two hours, 48 minutes.

Earlier, on court one, Jim Courier reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time by beating fellow American Todd Martin in straight sets — 6-2, (7-5), 6-3.

In the other quarterfinals, No. 2 Stefan Edberg played unseeded Cedric Pioline of France and three-time champion Boris Becker faced fellow German Michael Stich.

Sampras overcame considerable adversity in order to beat Agassi. Besides his shoulder problems, he had the overwhelming pro-Agassi crowd to contend with. Even Sampras' errors drew wild cheers.

Agassi's fans included Hollywood entertainer Barbara Streisand, who sat in the players' box and frequently jumped to her feet to lead the applause. After winning a key point, Agassi would often pump his fists and look over at his entourage.

Agassi appeared to have the momentum after winning the third and fourth sets, but Sampras regained the advantage when he broke for a 3-2 lead in the final set.

Sampras had two match points at 5-3, but Agassi saved both. In the next game, however, Sampras served out the match at love. He hit two aces in the game — his 20th and 21st of the match — and finished with a good serve that Agassi returned wide.

Courier has won the French Open and Australian Open twice. But he has never had much success on grass, reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals once.

The 6-foot-6 (1.98 m) Martin got to the quarterfinals on the strength of a big serve-and-volley attack, but Courier managed to keep him at the baseline with his strong groundstrokes.

When Martin did come in, Courier was often ready with passing shots. Courier also capitalised on Martin's double faults on several key points.

Martin's one chance to make the match interesting came when he earned a set point with Courier serving at 4-5 in the second set. But Martin squandered the opportunity, when on the fourth shot of the rally, he sailed a forehand way beyond the baseline.

Women's semifinals at Wimbledon

Graf meets Martinez; Navratilova takes on Novotna today

WIMBLEDON (R) — The top two women's seeds Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova romped into the Wimbledon semifinals Tuesday, looking like they owned the place.

Graf, winner here for the past two years as well as in 1988 and 1989, overcame the hiccup of a dropped service game in the first set of her quarter-final against seventh seed Jennifer Capriati to win 7-6 6-1.

And Navratilova, who holds a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, needed only 49 minutes to crush unseeded Belarussian Natalia Zvereva 6-3 6-1.

Both top seeds played the sort of powerful, athletic tennis that has brought them such success on Wimbledon grass and it is hard to imagine any other combination reaching the final here.

But in Thursday's semifinals Graf must first overcome sixth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, a surprise 6-1 6-4 victor over lofty Czech Helena Sukova and normally a clay-court specialist.

Navratilova takes on eighth-seeded Czech Jana Novotna, who knocked out popular Argentine fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini 6-4 6-3.

Despite her apparently invincible form world number one Graf was obviously irritated with herself for allowing Capriati to dominate the start of the match.

"I didn't play aggressively enough in the beginning. I missed a few forehands. The service game I lost was terrible," the 24-year-old German said grimly.

Asked how far off perfection she felt, Graf, winner of the French Open last month, said: "Quite a bit."

And, though the overwhelming favourite here, she refused to look beyond her next match and speculate on the possibility of a fifth title.

Navratilova, at 36 the Veteran of the tournament, was brimming with confidence after speeding around the centre court and brushed aside any suggestion she should concede the arena to the next generation.

"I am playing as good tennis as I ever played in my career," the Czech-born American said.

"Technically I'm better ... I'm still moving better than 99 per cent of the women — it's just a little harder to get going."

Navratilova, who holds more singles titles than any other woman, said her season's form was reaching its peak at the 100th women's Wimbledon, where she is sentimental favourite to win her 10th championship.

"It's been a gradual ascent to better form and it's holding," she said.

"You just win on heart rather than form sometimes. But you know they both seem to be working well now."

Certainly Navratilova scurried about the court with energy and enthusiasm, allowing her 22-year-



Jennifer Capriati is in a determined mood before losing to Steffi Graf

old opponent no opportunity to get into the match.

Zvereva appeared pinned to the baseline and, as Navratilova's grip tightened, she lost confidence producing a stream of unforced errors.

Navratilova's semifinal opponent plays the same sort of game. She battered a hapless Sabatini from the net, taking full advantage of the speed of the court to slam away volleys.

"I think playing gaby on grass I felt I had the best chance I could have," Novotna said afterwards.

"Because we've had no rain at all the courts are very hard and fast, and I tried to take advantage of that and come in as soon as I could."

Although she has career wins over Graf, injured former world number one Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Novotna has failed to overcome Navratilova in seven previous meetings.

The last time the pair met was in the semifinal of the Paris women's indoor tournament last February, when Navratilova made light work of her opponent on a slow surface, winning 6-1



A dejected Gabriela Sabatini who was ousted by Jana Novotna

6-3. Novotna, 12 years Navratilova's junior, said the older woman, who defeated in 1975, was never her inspiration.

"I don't remember Martina growing up in Czechoslovakia — I'm too young for that — so all I remember of Martina is just that I saw her on T.V."

Martinez has also had seven meetings and seven defeats against her semifinal opponent, but she was clearly not feeling downhearted.

"It's great because when you play against Steffi you are in the quarters or the semifinals so I'm very happy to be there and we'll see what happens," she said.

Martinez, normally happier on clay, took the game to Sukova, serving well and putting pressure on the 1.88-metre Czech's return on the brilliant sunshine not usually associated with Wimbledon.

Sukova, short on match practice after injury, was wayward — and succeeded with 70 per cent of her first serves as well as 85 per cent of her returns.

"I've been working on my physique and on my concentration and not going down in important games on important points," the 21-year-old Spaniard said. "Now I'm much better prepared and with more confidence in myself," she said.

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

★HOUSE-HUNTING BORIS: Boris Becker and fiancée Barbara Feltus are taking advantage of the Wimbledon fortnight to do some house hunting in the London area.

Feltus, a 26-year-old model, confirmed the couple is planning a move to escape what she described as the prejudice encountered in Germany because of their interracial relationship.

"We came to London to escape racism," Feltus was quoted as saying by British newspapers. "In Germany they say things like 'go back to the bush' because they think I'm ruining Boris' life career. All sorts of nasty things have been said about me. Things like I'm into drugs and that I am a

prostitute. Last year I read that I had been pregnant seven times. But all of that was totally ridiculous."

Feltus said no date has been set for her marriage to Becker. "It is up to Boris to surprise me, but we really are like husband and wife already," she said. "We could not be any closer."

Becker, when pressed by a tabloid reporter to announce a wedding date, told the questioner that he would be "the last person to know."

★COVERED HEADS: For the first time in the tournament's history, the ballboys and ballgirls were sporting caps Tuesday.

The blue baseball caps topped off the traditional purple and green uniforms as protection from the brilliant sunshine not usually associated with Wimbledon.

Ambulance workers continue to treat scores of spectators daily for fainting spells and other heat-related conditions. The high temperature on Tuesday reached a balmy 70 degrees (21 degrees C).

With eight days of tennis so far and not a drop of rain in sight, this could be the first completely dry Wimbledon since 1977.

★NOT SO FAST: The British papers have been raving over Britain's performance at this year's Wimbledon. True, no British man or woman reached the quarterfinals, but Andrew Foster got to the fourth round before losing to Pete Sampras, and Chris Bailey gave Goran Ivanisevic a stiff challenge on centre court.

But Tony Pickard, the British Davis Cup captain who also coaches Stefan Edberg, has a more realistic assessment of the home team's performance. "Remember that our recent wins, just before and during Wimbledon, have been on grass," Pickard said. "The time to assess whether there has been a boom in British tennis is at the end of the year, not after a few wins at Wimbledon."

★GRUNT ON: With Monica Seles absent from the tournament, the "gruntometers" have not reappeared at Wimbledon this year to measure the sound of her grunts. They may resurface on the cricket field, however.

A woman cricketer playing for Oxford against Cambridge was warned by the umpire for grunting when she bowls. Shamim Umari was accused of "unladylike" behaviour and trying to distract her opponents.

"It just happens. Every time I put 100 per cent into a (delivery) a grunt just slips out."

"I can really sympathise with Monica Seles," Umarijo said. "When you're playing your best, the last thing you should have to worry about is a grunt which happens naturally."

★BOOMING BLACK MART: Wimbledon says it's winning the war against scalpers. And yet, some unsuspecting fans still are paying huge amounts of cash for sometimes worthless tickets.

Take these examples. A businessman taking friends and associates to the Wimbledon tennis championship paid 50,000 pounds (\$75,000) to scalpers for 35 centre court tickets which turned out to be invalid.

Two German fans paid 3,600 deutschmarks (\$2,122) for two centre court tickets valued at \$54. And two Americans bought four invalid tickets for \$1,200.

"Wimbledon has been plagued by the black market in Wimbledon tickets for many years," the club's chief executive, Chris Goringe, said Tuesday. "The black market makes a mockery of our carefully-considered pricing and distribution system because it redirects tickets to those who can afford to pay grossly-inflated prices."

Tennis' image takes a pounding at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (R) — When Andre Agassi made a secret visit to Wimbledon last December, the staff were somewhat taken aback to find him seated in the members dining-room for lunch still wearing his baseball cap.

"The club has no rules about that," the All England Club secretary said, implying the committee would be drafting one pretty sharply. They should not be too hasty, whatever his sartorial habits, Wimbledon currently needs Agassi very badly.

By any stretch of the imagination, this has been a sobering Wimbledon for those who still think of tennis as a romantic, sun-dappled game of charm and integrity.

In loose alphabetical order, the recurring themes have been Andre's chest hair, bad-tempered stars, Monica's knife wound, security overkill, sinister stalkers and, perhaps most bizarrely, zero rain.

Except for the weather, it's fair to say tennis could do without any of them. The question is simple. Are these merely isolated blots on a world-famous sporting event or part of a deeper malaise?

Agassi sits happily at the epicentre of the argument, content to take the media rough with the smooth in the cause of box-office rewards.

He knows, his agent knows and the world knows that Wimbledon without Agassi is as attractive a prospect as a circus without its trapeze artists, lion-tamer and clowns.

Most of his fellow-professionals, by comparison, cling grimly to the safety net represented by inflated prizemoney and their computer rankings.

Agassi apart, it seems to be a situation which is breeding mediocrity, staidness and, among the top players, increasingly boorish behaviour.

Wimbledon referee Alan Mills and Martina Navratilova, a normally unlikely couple, both believe deteriorating player discipline urgently needs addressing, particularly amongst the men.

"I don't think there's an element of doubt about that," said Mills, reflecting on disciplinary inquiries into the antics of three of his top five male seeds at Wimbledon — Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic.

He cited official failure to stamp on some spectacularly poor behaviour by Patrick McEnroe in the opening week as one reason, claiming "a lot of players seem to have decided they can do what they like."

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Maradona fired by Sevilla

SEVILLE (R) — Diego Maradona has been sacked by Spanish club Sevilla hours before the expiry of his contract, the club's deputy chairman said Wednesday.

Jose Maria Del Nido told the state news agency EFE: "Maradona has been fired before the termination of his work contract with Sevilla."

The former Argentine captain was informed of his sacking in a note from the club's lawyers sent Tuesday, Del Nido said. The contract formally expires Wednesday.

Maradona joined Sevilla at the start of the season from Napoli after he completed a 15-month ban from the game for drug abuse.

The Spanish club based his dismissal on five points. These included: The fact he had left the Andalusian capital June 23 after incidents in a match against Real Burgos when Maradona was substituted and stormed off hurling his captain's armband to the ground, his failure to attend training, his poor sporting performance and "lack of loyalty to the company."

Last week Sevilla informed Maradona they would not pay him, or the Dutch company which acts as his publicity agent, some 140 million pesetas (about \$1.1 million) outstanding on his one-year contract.

He missed seven of the club's final 10 games of the season because of back and leg trouble.



Diego Maradona

Maradona has looked overweight and out of condition in most of his appearances for Sevilla, despite showing occasional flashes of his old genius.

He missed seven of the club's final 10 games of the season because of back and leg trouble.

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- MITSUBISHI PAJERO, 1992 model, seven seats, ordinary gear, ordinary windows, air condition, radio recorder, power steering, silver colour, in free zone.
- NISSAN ALTIMA, 4 cylinders, dark grey, ordinary gear, air condition; 1991 model.
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♣ K J 4 2

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♥ 7 8 2
♦ J 8 5
♣ Q 8 7

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ K Q 10
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ J 2
♥ J 9 5 4 3
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of spades. It is the big hand that the grab the attention at major tournaments. But once in a while a relatively quiet low-level contract can produce pearls, as did this one from the recent Summer North American Championships in Toronto.

Sitting East-West were Ron Rubin and Michael Becker, whose team went on to win the prestigious Spingold Knockout Team event.

With his best suit bid to his right, East had no reason to reopen the bidding after North-South settled in one no trump.

West led the eight of hearts, taken in by dummy's ace. Declarer led a low spade from the table and East shot in with the queen. When this won the trick, East shifted to the queen of diamonds!

Holding the king in hand and with the ten on the board, there was no reason for declarer to cover. When East persevered with the four of diamonds, declarer was put to a guess. Not surprisingly, South chose to play East for the jack, and so ducked again.

Delighted by this turn of events, West returned a diamond to the ace, felling the king, and East cashed the king and queen of hearts before exiting with a spade. That enabled West to win the ace of spades and cash a long diamond for a two-trick set.

What was the prettiest play by East? In our opinion, not the shift to the queen of diamonds at trick three. We vote for inserting the queen of spades at trick two. In retrospect, it is easy to see that it cannot lose, but in the heat of battle it's not easy to spot.

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TODAY

Cinema Tel.: 677420
CONCORD
Nowhere To Run
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 699238
PLAZA
Happy-Eld Al Adha
Adel Imam — in
The Forgotten
Arabic
Spring Fever U.S.A.
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Show: 5 p.m.

Cinema Tel.: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
FAR AND AWAY
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
BUGS BUNNY
Special show Thu. + Fr. for children at 11:00 a.m.

Nabil Al Mubaid Theatre Tel.: 675571
For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled:
The Assassination of Haneen
by artist Gassid Eltar
Show on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:00 p.m.
Please book seats in advance

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
AHLAN THEATRE
The last two weeks
- Welcome New World Order
- Welcome Parliament and Budget
The theatre will close as of 11.7.93 in order to start presenting two new plays:
Welcome an Arab Summit and Nabil and Hisham in School during the Jerash Festival

OAU agrees mechanism to handle African conflicts

CAIRO (Agencies) — Africa's leaders agreed on Wednesday on the outlines of a mechanism to deal with the continent's many conflicts despite reservations by Sudan and Eritrea.

Diplomats said heads of state at the 30th anniversary summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) approved the resolution at the end of a closed session which lasted until well after midnight.

The agreement charges a committee of 11 of the 52 members of the OAU with working out details of the mechanism — Egypt, Senegal and Tunisia as the present, past and future chairmen of the organisation and the eight current vice chairmen.

It gives the OAU secretary general, Salem Ahmed Salem, certain powers to take initiatives in preventing, managing or resolving conflicts, such as appointing eminent people as special envoys.

The diplomats said the agreement also allows for money to be raised from outside Africa in certain circumstances to pay for conflict observers and peacekeeping, a vital but highly sensitive point.

The OAU has no money. Member states are \$60 million in arrears in contributions to the organisation, an amount equal to its running costs for two years.

But raising money from outside Africa, for instance from rich Western countries through the United Nations, could risk giving outsiders influence over the OAU's decisions.

The OAU has a dismal record in dealing with Africa's conflicts. Many of them between ethnic, cultural or religious groups have been fought within borders drawn by colonial powers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The latest failure was in the Central African state of Rwanda, where the OAU had hoped to bring rival parties in a civil war to sign a peace agreement in the days before the Cairo summit. The signing was postponed indefinitely after last-

minute arguments.

The diplomats said Eritrea, the newest member of the OAU but quickly emerging as its fiercest critic, registered its doubts that the organisation would be able to finance and manage the mechanism successfully.

Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia only in May and so did not attend last year's summit in Senegal at which leaders gave approval in principle to the idea of a mechanism on conflicts.

The government of Sudan, which has been fighting southern rebels for 10 years and is wary about possible foreign military intervention to protect relief supplies, recorded its concern that the mechanism could mean meddling in members' internal affairs.

Sudan's fears were obvious from a speech in open session on Tuesday by military ruler, Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

He said the presence of U.N. forces in Somalia, where they went to protect relief supplies but have become involved in fighting with a Mogadishu warlord, was an "example of the intervention formulas that are being promoted by the new colonialism."

Leaders of countries embroiled in some of Africa's longest-running wars, including Angola, Liberia and Mozambique, received a litany of woes at the summit Tuesday.

Libyan sanctions

The OAU summit also called on the United Nations to lift an embargo on Libya.

The embargo on air links with Libya was imposed at the urging of the United States, Britain and France in retaliation for Tripoli's alleged involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner that crashed on Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 271 people.

A resolution by the OAU summit "urges the Security Council to reconsider Resolution 748/1992 and lift the embargo imposed on Libya in view of the positive initiatives taken by the great Jamahiriya (Libya) in

addressing the crisis."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi last week offered to hand over two Libyan suspects indicted in the West for the Lockerbie bombing to U.S. human rights activists Jesse Jackson.

U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry Tuesday dismissed the Libyan offer.

"Libya knows with zero uncertainty what it has to do in connection with the two suspects in the Pan Am 103 bombing. Mr. McCurry declared. "They must be extradited to the United States or to the U.K. for prosecution, and there is a proper way to do that and it's not to deliver them to a visiting journalist."

"We will recognise a serious effort on the part of Libya to comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions when they fulfill the requirements that are quite specific in those resolutions," the spokesman said. "That would be a serious offer that we would consider seriously. This does not appear to be that."

Human rights

Pierre Sane, secretary-general of Amnesty International, Tuesday urged the OAU to promote human rights.

Mr. Sane told a news conference that the group should encourage Ethiopia, Swaziland and Eritrea to ratify the OAU's charter on human rights, adopted 12 years ago.

And he urged the other nations to ensure that its provisions were incorporated in their laws and legal systems.

"We feel it is important for the OAU to take the leadership to improve the human rights situation in Africa," Mr. Sane said. The group, he added, "should speak up publicly when gross violations of human rights occur."

Mr. Sane also said that election monitoring and conflict-resolution operations under discussion by the OAU should incorporate human rights protections.



WHAT LIES IN STORE? Bosnian Muslim refugees take a rest after arriving in the village of Zeljezno Polje (some 40 kilometres from Zenica) on Wednesday. Several hundred people from the village of Kolice were forced to leave their home due to Croat offensive and travelled for more than a day over the mountains before finding refuge in the Muslim-controlled Zeljezno Polje (AFP photo)

U.N. closes file on Iraqi nuclear 'threat'; U.S. opens conventional file

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's pre-war nuclear arms programme is "finished" and the country has no hidden reactor to start again, a U.N. arms expert said here Wednesday.

The programme is "finished, destroyed, damaged, devastated," insisted Bob Kelley, the American leader of a team of 10 nuclear inspectors ending a visit to Iraq, the 58th U.N. disarmament mission since the Gulf war.

His assessment came a day after a U.S. congressional report that Iraq had recovered 80 per cent of its military manufacturing capacity before the 1991 Gulf conflict.

The war and the inspectors have destroyed billions of dollars of facilities and equipment. Those facilities and equipment are gone, they are smoking ruins," Mr. Kelley told a press conference. "It's over."

He urged Baghdad to disclose its list of foreign suppliers and cautioned that Iraq could relaunch the nuclear programme, once the post-war arms inspections are eased, although its chances were slim.

"We would have to say that this country has the experience, the people, the knowledge to reconstitute such a programme quicker than should they start to do that in any other country," said Mr. Kelley.

"But to do that they have to replace all the things that were destroyed."

He dismissed Western media reports that Iraq still had a hidden reactor, possibly at an underground facility, saying: "I think it is time to put the story to bed."

"There is no reason at this point to believe there is a nuclear reactor in Iraq. A reactor is a pretty large facility with a lot of signatures that are related to destroying the water."

"There would be a long trail of indicators. We don't see those indicators."

But he added that "even if there is a reactor out there... hidden in a hole, covered by bulldozers, all the infrastructure supporting that reactor is gone."

Mr. Kelley said the key task of nuclear inspectors was to check dual-use machinery, such as at a bicycle factory which they visited. "The equipment at one time used in a nuclear programme is now used in welding bicycles," he said.

He said the six-day mission also helped prepare for the removal of 40 kilograms of nuclear fuel from Tunaitha, near Baghdad. It would be transferred to Russia starting in September.

A U.S. congressional report said Tuesday Iraq had restored enough of its pre-Gulf war conventional weapons complex to threaten its neighbours soon if the rearming continues unchecked.

The report, prepared for a house of representatives foreign affairs sub-committee, said Iraq had also put back into service most of the tanks, artillery and combat aircraft damaged by the U.S.-led coalition that drove it from Kuwait in 1991.

Despite a U.N. trade embargo aimed at forcing Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is still shipping oil to Jordan and Iran, the survey added.

It said the proceeds had been used to revive an extensive clandestine procurement network in Europe, the Middle East and possibly the United States to acquire spare weapons parts.

"Iraq has rebuilt many of the weapons plants damaged during the allied air campaign, and has resumed the production of a very wide range of conventional weaponry," it said. "If unchecked, the Gulf could face the threat

of renewed Iraqi aggression during this administration."

The report was released at a hearing on Iraq by Congressman Tom Lantos, the California Democrat who is chairman of the subcommittee on international operations.

In summarising the findings, Mr. Lantos said: "Iraq has managed to reconstruct 80 per cent of the military manufacturing capability it possessed before (the Gulf war)."

"What will happen if (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein succeeds in driving a wedge between the United States and its allies and the U.N. sanctions are lifted?"

Under the ceasefire terms, Iraq accepted Security Council Resolution 687, which forced it to renounce production, stockpiling and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

But none of the ceasefire terms provide for the dismantling of future monitoring of Iraq's conventional weapons plants — a "loophole" the survey said.

A State Department spokesman Michael McCurry declined specific comment when asked about the congressional report.

"The United States is aware that Iraq has been rebuilding its conventional military capability," the spokesman said. But he said he did not want to detail the level of information the United States may have about Jordan's alleged involvement.

"The general subject of Iraq's military capability and its non-compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions is a subject that has been touched upon frequently in conversations we've had with a variety of members of the world community," Mr. McCurry said. "Are we concerned about their capabilities? Of course."

Qaisi to lead Iraqi team to oil talks

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry official will lead Baghdad's delegation in talks on oil sales next week in New York, U.N. sources said.

Riyadh Al Qaisi, director of Iraq's Foreign Ministry's international organisations division, will head a four-man team expected to include the director of the Central Bank, a Commerce Ministry official and an oil industry official.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, now in Geneva, announced Tuesday that the talks, abandoned for a year, would resume on July 7 in New York at a high level despite an American missile attack on Baghdad last weekend.

U.N. officials want the sale partly to pay for posting U.N. guards in northern Iraq to reassure Kurds. Lack of Western donor money in recent months has forced the United Nations to withdraw more than half of the some 500 guards sent originally.

Dr. Ghali said he is confident that Saturday's U.S. attack aimed at the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad "will not constitute an obstacle to the holding of the upcoming negotiations."

He said President Bill Clinton gave him prior notice of the U.S. raid.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz offered to resume talks when he met Dr. Ghali in Geneva last week, diplomats say.

Dr. Ghali said Tuesday he hopes the fresh talks will lead towards a solution "in conformity with the United Nations Charter."

The Security Council has offered Iraq a one-time crude sale worth \$1.6 billion to buy food and other supplies after the devastation of the Gulf war, with strict U.N. monitoring so profits are used for humanitarian needs.

Other uses would include monitoring and eliminating Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. Most of the proceeds would go into U.N. coffers.

Iraq has rejected the offer in the past, saying the supervised sales would violate its sovereignty.

Previous talks in Vienna ended inconclusively last June.

A sweeping U.N. embargo was imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Hardship and shortages have been reported in Iraq since.

Security Council sources said they expected Baghdad's team would again ask to sell more than \$1.6 billion, arguing that it was difficult to get back into the oil market with such a small amount.

Council diplomats previously said the United Nations would have to see how its monitoring procedures worked out after the first batch was sold before another could be approved.

COLUMN

Clinton, Dole face off — in friendly fashion

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's appearance before a business group was nearly upstaged by Republican minority leader Bob Dole, who entered the convention hall to loud applause and chants of, "Dole in '96." The Kansas senator has emerged as Mr. Clinton's major political rival. Mr. Clinton, who received a warm but skeptical response from the national federation of independent businesses, was shaking hands on his way out when applause came from the other end of the hall. Sen. Dole had arrived for his speech a bit early. Mr. Clinton retreated to his steps and met Sen. Dole near the podium. "How about a debate?" somebody yelled from the crowd. Instead, the rivals merely shook hands in front of photographers. Since Mr. Clinton's victory over George Bush last November, Sen. Dole has become Washington's most influential Republican and a leading contender for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination. Sen. Dole lost previous efforts to gain the Republican presidential nomination and was his party's vice presidential nominee in 1976, when Democrat Jimmy Carter defeated Republican Gerald Ford.

Congress to extend arts endowment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee rejected an effort to abolish the embattled National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), voting to extend the agency's life another two years. The action by the House Education and Labour Committee also keeps alive for two more years the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum Services. NEA, in particular, has been under fire in recent years from conservative groups that claimed it was spending federal dollars on obscene works of art. The panel defeated on a 37-3 vote the amendment by Rep. Richard Armitage to abolish the three agencies. "The government should not be in the business of authenticating art and literature," Mr. Armitage argued. With a projected \$320 billion budget deficit, the government can't afford the programmes, which cost more than \$350 million a year, Mr. Armitage said. Last year, President George Bush dismissed NEA Director John Frohnmayer amid mounting criticism from conservatives about the kind of art the agency sponsored. Three years ago, Congress passed and Mr. Bush signed into law a requirement that NEA consider "general standards of decency" when awarding grants to artists. A federal judge declared the restriction unconstitutional in 1992, but the Bush administration appealed the ruling. Last March, the Clinton administration reiterated the same policy when the Justice Department filed papers in support of the appeal.

Coroner to probe multiple child deaths

CEDARVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Kathleen and Timothy Carroll knew when they began adopting disabled children that most of them were at risk of not living long. But five of their 10 adopted children have died in the last nine months, and the latest death has prompted a coroner's investigation. "You have to look at the whole picture," Mrs. Carroll said. "The children weren't supposed to live as long as they did. We, by having the children that we have, put ourselves in a very high-risk group for having something like that happen." Authorities scheduled a July 26 coroner's inquest to get more information about three of the deaths. The investigation was prompted by this month's death of 12-year-old Josiah Carroll. No criminal allegations have been made. "There are just too many unanswered questions," said Suzanne Schmidt, assistant county prosecutor. Four of the Carrolls' remaining children still live with them in a modern house sitting on a big lot. Hosea, 9, was born to a drug-addicted mother, Samuel, 5, has Down syndrome; Isaiah, 10, has cerebral palsy; and James, 17, came from a "difficult" background but has no physical disability. Mrs. Carroll said. The county's children services board has asked for temporary custody of the children. The motion probably won't be decided until after the inquest, said Ms. Schmidt. Meanwhile, the agency is permitted to make unannounced visits to the home. The couple began adopting children, eight years ago.

Arafat warns current peace talks 'last chance'

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday warned that current U.S.-brokered Arab-Israeli peace talks were the "last chance" for stability in the Middle East.

Saying he was awaiting proposals from Washington to announce by Thursday in a bid to jumpstart stalled Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Mr. Arafat added that the price of failure would be chaos.

"If these peace talks will fall down, we have to expect complete confusion in this area and total polarisation," Mr. Arafat told AFP here.

"Till now nothing has been achieved," he said, renewing his call on Washington to be a "fair broker" despite pressure from the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was speaking on the sidelines of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo.

He also urged Europe to play a "more active role" in the peace process.

He said instability in the Middle East would "reflect directly on Europe" and urged European powers to use their diplomatic and economic ties with Israel to push for peace.

He said that if the Washington peace talks failed to produce a "just, peaceful solution," there would be an uncontrollable eruption of violence fuelled by poverty in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"This is the last chance," said

Mr. Arafat in an interview after midnight in a Cairo hotel room.

He said Israel and Gulf states allied with the United States had sponsored Iranian-backed Islamic fundamentalist "fanatic groups" to weaken the PLO.

He said he had received "no response" to his personal appeal this week to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to have the courage to conclude a "peace of the brave" — the words former French President Charles de Gaulle used when he agreed to end French colonial rule in Algeria after a brutal war.

"There is no de Gaulle in Israel, and there is no de Klerk either," Mr. Arafat said, referring to South African President Frederik de Klerk, who has promised democratic elections to end white minority rule by April.

"He (Rabin) is one of the hawks," Mr. Arafat said. He reiterated the PLO's demand for "land for peace," saying Israel had to withdraw from the occupied territories including Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat condemned the U.S. strike against Iraq in retaliation for alleged Iraqi involvement in a failed plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

He urged Washington "to stop the raids against the Iraqi people."

He also called for the lifting of the U.N. air embargo on Libya for its alleged involvement in the bombings of U.S. and French passenger planes in 1988 and 1989.

Nosair implicated in blast

NEW YORK (R) — El Sayyid Nosair, jailed in connection with the 1990 killing of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane, will soon be indicted for helping to plan the World Trade Centre bombing, sources close to the case said Tuesday.

"It's safe to say that Nosair's indictment is no more than a few weeks away, maybe even less than that," a senior investigator said.

Another police source said Mr. Nosair would almost certainly be charged with conspiracy in the unfolding investigation against a group of suspects.

"It's going to happen someday soon. There's no doubt about it. He is involved up to his neck," the official said.

Mr. Nosair is serving a seven to 22-year sentence for gun possession and assault in the 1990 killing in New York of Kahane, a radical anti-Arab rabbi. He was acquitted of Kahane's murder in the 1991 trial.

Although he is in prison, investigators believe Mr. Nosair helped plan the Feb. 26 bombing of the trade centre in which six people died.

They have also linked him to the alleged plot to blow up the United Nations, two road tunnels and federal offices in New York. Eight people were arrested last Thursday in that case.

Mr. Nosair himself said in May that he expected to be indicted in the World Trade Centre bombing.

"I believe investigators are keeping my name in the media to prepare the public for my indictment in the trade centre bombing or something, anything," Mr. Nosair told Reuters on May 14 at Attica state prison.

Investigators have also said they are targeting Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the spiritual leader of 12 of the 14 suspects connected to both cases.

Local television said Sunday that tape recordings of him have Sheikh Abdul Rahman saying that "American blood should be spilled on its own soil."

Investigators said over the weekend that they do not have enough information to charge the cleric. But U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, allegedly an assassination target by the bomb plot group, urged U.S. authorities to arrest Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

"It's outrageous that the sheikh still roams the streets, inciting violence and terror. The Justice Department has evidence of his connection to last week's horrible plot. The Justice Department must show they are serious about enforcing our laws," Mr. D'Amato said in a statement Monday.

WARNING FROM THE JORDAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (JPA)

In accordance with the provisions of the JPA law No. 1 of 1983, non-JPA practicing members are not allowed to declare that they are journalists in any way. Also advertising, publication and distribution offices are prohibited from adding a title to their publication giving the impression that they are press offices unless they had acquired proper licences for publication.

The ban covers all news correspondents for non-Jordanian media, like newspapers, magazines and news agencies if they are not registered JPA members.

Those violating the law are liable to face penalties stipulated under the law, including the payment of fines and imprisonment.

With this announcement, the JPA is sending out a warning to all violators of the law because it plans to take legal and administrative measures against the violators of the law in cooperation with the concerned authorities. The JPA holds the sole prerogative to issue journalists cards in the Kingdom under the terms of the law and in accordance with regulations.